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United Nations

Commission on Sustainable Development

Report on the seventeenth session (16 May 2008 and 4-15 May 2009)

Economic and Social Council

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Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures.

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Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft decisions recommended by the Commission for adoption by the Council

1. The Commission on Sustainable Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I
Dates of the meetings of the Commission on Sustainable Development during its 2010/2011 cycle*

The Economic and Social Council decides that the eighteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (review session) should take place from 3 to 14 May 2010, the intergovernmental preparatory meeting for the nineteenth session of the Commission should take place from 21 to 25 February 2011 and the nineteenth session of the Commission (policy session) should take place from 2 to 13 May 2011.

Draft decision II
Adoption of the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its seventeenth session and provisional agenda for the eighteenth session of the Commission**

The Economic and Social Council takes note of the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its seventeenth session and approves the provisional agenda for the eighteenth session of the Commission as set out below.

Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Thematic cluster for the implementation cycle 2010-2011 — review session:
   (a) Transport;
   (b) Chemicals;
   (c) Waste management;
   (d) Mining.

* For the discussion, see chap. III, paras. 10-11.
** For the discussion, see chaps. IV and V.

4. A 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns.

5. Provisional agenda for the nineteenth session of the Commission.

6. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its eighteenth session.

B. Matters brought to the attention of the Council

2. The attention of the Council is drawn to the following resolutions and decision of the seventeenth session of the Commission as well as the Chairperson's summary entitled "Shared vision":

Resolution 17/1
Policy options and practical measures to expedite implementation in agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa

The Commission on Sustainable Development,

Reaffirming the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[1] including, inter alia, its principle 7 on common but differentiated responsibilities, Agenda 21,[2] the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[3] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[4] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),[5] the Declaration of Barbados[6] and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[7] the Mauritius Declaration[8] and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[9] and the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,[10]

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[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I: *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution I, annex I.

[2] Ibid., annex II.

[3] General Assembly resolution S-19/2, annex.

[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[5] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[6] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[7] Ibid., annex II.

[8] *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E 05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[9] Ibid., annex II.

[10] *Report of the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Brussels, Belgium, 14-20 May 2001* (A/CONF.191/13), chap. I, pp. 10-67.

Reaffirming the political declaration[11] adopted at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on 22 September 2008 to address "Africa's development needs: state of implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward", and further reaffirming its commitment to provide and strengthen support to the special needs of Africa; stressing that eradicating poverty, in particular in Africa, is the greatest challenge facing the world today; and underlining the importance of accelerating sustainable broad-based economic growth, which is pivotal to bringing Africa to the mainstream of the global economy,

Recognizing the problems and constraints that African countries are facing in the area of agriculture, rural development, land, drought, and desertification, and emphasizing that those problems and constraints should be adequately addressed,

Resolving to take further effective measures to remove obstacles to the full realization of the rights of peoples living under colonial and foreign occupation, which are incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person and must be combated and eliminated,

Recognizing the need for new and additional financial resources from all sources to achieve sustainable development, and recognizing the essential role of the official development assistance as a catalyst for other sources of financing for development,

Recalling the outcome of the 2005 World Summit,[12] the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development[13] and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development adopted at the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, held in Doha from 29 November to 2 December 2008,[14]

Welcoming increasing efforts to improve the quality of official development assistance and to increase its development impact, and recognizing that the Economic and Social Council Development Cooperation Forum, along with recent initiatives, such as the high-level forums on aid effectiveness, which produced the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the 2008 Accra Agenda for Action,[15] make important contributions to the efforts of those countries which have committed to them, including through the adoption of the fundamental principles of national ownership, alignment, harmonization and managing of results; and also bearing in mind that there is no one-size-fits-all formula that will guarantee effective assistance and that the specific situation of each country needs to be fully considered,

Reaffirming that economic development, social development and environmental protection are interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars of sustainable development,

Also reaffirming that eradicating poverty, changing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and protecting and managing the natural resources base

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[11] General Assembly resolution 63/1.

[12] General Assembly resolution 60/1.

[13] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[14] General Assembly resolution 63/239, annex.

[15] A/63/539, annex.

of economic and social development are overarching objectives of, and essential requirements for, sustainable development,

Reaffirming the commitments to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, inter alia, the objective of reducing by half the proportion of the world's people who suffer from extreme poverty and hunger by 2015,

Emphasizing the urgent need to increase efforts at all levels to address food security and agricultural development in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable manner, and emphasizing that achieving food security requires strengthening and revitalizing the agricultural sector in developing countries, including through enhanced international support, enabling environment at all levels, the empowerment of small-scale farmers, especially women, technical assistance, access to and transfer of technologies, capacity-building and exchange of knowledge and experience,

Welcoming the holding of the High-level Conference on World Food Security: the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy in Rome from 3 to 5 June 2008,

Noting other multilateral, regional, and national meetings in the area of food security, including the High-Level Meeting on Food Security for All, convened by the Government of Spain and the United Nations, held in Madrid on 26 and 27 January 2009, the eleventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, on 30 June and 1 July 2008, and the Presidential Summit on Sovereignty and Food Security: Foods for Life, held in Managua on 7 May 2008,

Taking note of the recommendations contained in the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the context of National Food Security,[16]

Reaffirming the need to fulfil all official development assistance commitments including the commitments made by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance to developing countries by 2015 and to reach the level of at least 0.5 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance by 2010, as well as a target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance to least developed countries,

Taking note of the outcomes of the two intersessional meetings of the Commission held in Bangkok, from 28 to 30 January 2009 and in Windhoek on 9 and 10 February 2009, namely, the Summary of Recommendations of the Capacity Development Workshop for Improving Agricultural Productivity, Water Use Efficiency and Rural Livelihoods,[17] and the Windhoek High-level Ministerial Declaration on African Agriculture in the Twenty-first Century: Meeting the Challenges, Making a Sustainable Green Revolution,[18]

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[16] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Report of the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, One Hundred and Twenty-seventh Session, Rome, 22-27 November 2004* (CL 127/REP), appendix D; see also E/CN.4/2005/131, annex.

[17] E/CN.17/2009/13, annex.

[18] E/CN.17/2009/14, annex.

Noting the Tokyo International Conference on African Development co-organized by the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank, and the Government of Japan, whose fourth meeting was held from 28 to 30 May 2008,

Expressing concern that despite significant efforts, the Doha Development Agenda of multilateral trade negotiations has not yet been concluded, and recognizing the urgency and reaffirming its commitment to reaching a successful and timely conclusion to the Doha Round of World Trade Organization negotiations with an ambitious, balanced and development-oriented outcome,

Mindful that measures and actions recommended at the seventeenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development and their implementation should be consistent with international obligations, including, where applicable, World Trade Organization rules,

Emphasizing that strong linkages exist among the six issues on the agenda of its sixteenth and seventeenth sessions, namely, agriculture, rural development, drought, desertification, land, and Africa, and that policies and measures aimed at one issue may have co-benefits for others,

Also emphasizing that addressing the interlinkages and cross-cutting issues and means of implementation, as defined by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eleventh session[19] is vital in achieving sustainable development,

Emphasizing the urgent need to increase efforts at the national, regional and international levels to address food security and agricultural development as part of the international development agenda,

Expressing deep concern at the impact of the current financial crisis and global economic slowdown on the ability of developing countries to gain access to the financing necessary for the development objectives, and underlining the fact that developing countries and countries with economies in transition risk suffering very serious setbacks to their development objectives, in particular the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Mindful of the growing scarcities of many natural resources and the competing claims to their use,

Convinced of the urgency of the present challenges and of the need for a bold, determined and innovative response to those crises, namely, one which protects the development gains of the past decades and accelerates progress towards sustainable development,

Recognizing the need to revitalize the agricultural and rural development sectors in developing countries in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable manner in order to increase agricultural productivity, improve the livelihoods of rural communities and achieve food security,

Recognizing the importance of science and technology and the need to improve science policy interface at all levels,

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[19] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 9* (E/2003/29-E/CN.17/2003/6), Chairperson's summary.

Appreciating that there are many successful experiences and best practices on the ground and that a key challenge we face is how to scale up, replicate and adapt what we know works,

Taking note of the United Nations Declaration of the Rights on Indigenous Peoples,[20]

Convinced that national implementation strategies should enhance the participation of all stakeholders, including women, youth, indigenous people, rural and other local communities, through, inter alia, the use of bottom-up approaches in decision-making, and stressing the need for the involvement of women, in particular, in decision-making,

Noting the contribution of national reporting, partnerships, learning centres and side-events, and other non-negotiated outcomes of the Commission on Sustainable Development in the advancement of sustainable development,

Reiterating that all biodiversity-related measures in this thematic cluster should be consistent with the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity,[21]

Reaffirming the commitment, subject to national legislation, to respect, preserve and maintain the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, promote their wider application with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices and encourage the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their utilization,

Taking note of the reports of the Commission at its sixteenth session[22] and of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting at its seventeenth session,[23]

Convinced of the importance of the effective implementation of the three Rio Conventions[24] and the strengthening of the cooperation among the three Rio Conventions at the national, regional and international levels, while respecting the individual mandates of the Conventions,

Recognizing that the implementation by developing countries of the following recommendations requires adequate financial resources, technology transfer and capacity-building,

Mindful that the following recommendations should be consistently implemented, taking into account national strategies, legislation and relevant international obligations,

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[20] General Assembly resolution 61/295, annex.

[21] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

[22] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2008, Supplement No. 9* (E/2008/29-E/CN.17/2008/17).

[23] E/CN.17/2009/2.

[24] United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa; United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; and Convention on Biological Diversity.

Noting the previously agreed provisions and decisions in relation to the thematic cluster, including the decisions taken at the third and eighth sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development,

1. *Decides* to call upon Governments, and the United Nations system, within existing resources and through voluntary contributions, and invites international financial institutions and other international organizations, as appropriate, working in partnership with major groups and other stakeholders to take action as follows:

A. Agriculture

1. In the past few years, agriculture has risen once more to the top of national and international policy agendas. Agriculture lies at the centre of sustainable development. It plays a crucial role in addressing the food security needs of a growing global population and contributing to the progressive realization of the right to adequate food and is inextricably linked to poverty eradication and attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. To this end, there must be mobilization of the political will and commitment of Governments and other relevant stakeholders, at the international and national levels, to revive the agricultural sectors in developing countries.

2. Boosting agricultural productivity, improving soil quality, ensuring the safety of food and, as appropriate, enhancing the nutritional quality of food is essential and needs to be done in ways that are socially, economically and environmentally sustainable. Moreover, a comprehensive approach integrating post-harvest storage and processing to reduce losses and add value, distribution and marketing infrastructure to link to markets and capacity-building at all stages, particularly in developing countries, is needed. Farmers and farm workers, female and male, especially small, and resource-poor, indigenous people and rural communities, need to be central actors in a green revolution in a sustainable way, with a sound balance and mutually beneficial linkages among small- and large-scale agricultural enterprises.

3. Such a revolution should be implemented by vitalizing sustainable agriculture and rural development in developing countries, in particular in Africa and the least developed countries. It needs to take into account national priorities and mutually beneficial linkages among farms enterprises of all scales adapted to site-specific agroecosystems and climate, building on local knowledge and experience while availing of the best available science, technology and know-how.

4. These efforts should include creating and promoting an enabling environment to increase and sustain investment in agricultural sectors of developing countries, as well as to ensure that trade is supportive of agriculture. Market access for agricultural products should be substantially improved, the parallel elimination of all forms of export subsidies and disciplines on all export measures with equivalent effect should be ensured, and trade-distorting domestic support should be substantially reduced, in accordance with the mandate for the Doha Round and the Hong Kong

Ministerial Declaration on the Doha Work Programme,[25] adopted at the Sixth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held in Hong Kong, China, from 13 to 18 December 2005. Special and differential treatment for developing countries shall be an integral part of all elements of the Doha Round and shall enable them to effectively take account of their development needs, including food security and rural development.

5. Agriculture is also dependent on climate and sensitive to climate change. Sustainable agricultural practices as well as sustainable forest management can contribute to meeting climate change concerns. Sustainable soil, land, livestock, forest, biodiversity and water management practices, and resilient crops are essential. To this end, international, regional and national efforts to strengthen the capacity of developing countries to enhance agricultural productivity and to promote sustainable practices in pre-harvest and post-harvest agricultural activities are urgently needed.

6. The following actions will be required at the local, national, regional and global levels in accordance with national priorities and legislations:

(a) *Enhance agriculture production, productivity and sustainability*. In that context:

(i) Employ science-based agricultural approaches, and local and indigenous knowledge, while undertaking research and development, to improve plant varieties, livestock, and soil. Encourage development and adoption of locally appropriate farming systems and agricultural practices;

(ii) Promote the use of soil conservation and improvement techniques, including integrated nutrient management and nutrient use efficiency, especially to prevent degradation of vulnerable land and restore degraded land;

(iii) Promote sound water management and saving in agriculture through efficient irrigation, water harvesting and storage, treatment and reuse;

(iv) As appropriate, support countries to strengthen research in areas of growing market demands, such as organic agriculture;

(v) Encourage the production and use of sustainable bio-based products in agriculture;

(vi) Expand public investments and incentives, in particular for small-scale producers in developing countries, including women, to increase production of a wide spectrum of traditional and other crops and livestock, and to accelerate the transition to sustainable production;

(vii) Recognize that forests and trees outside forests provide multiple economic, social and environmental benefits, and emphasize that sustainable forest management contributes significantly to sustainable development and poverty eradication;

[25] World Trade Organization, document WT/MIN(05)DEC.

(viii) Recognize the importance of achieving the objectives of the International Treaty of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture[26] and the full implementation by its Parties;

(ix) Recognize the importance of achieving the objectives of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources[27] and its implementation by committed countries;

(x) Conserve and use sustainably biodiversity in order to strengthen the resilience of agriculture and enhance food security in accordance with international obligations as well as national laws and regulations with regard to fair and equitable sharing of benefits;

(xi) Encourage the adoption of measures for the management and control of invasive species;

(xii) Provide targeted and timely technical assistance and support to farmers, especially small-scale farmers, including women, in developing countries for accessing affordable inputs;

(xiii) Encourage and support safe and effective integrated pest management strategies for agriculture;

(xiv) Enhance international knowledge-sharing, cooperation, capacity-building and support on sustainable agriculture, including the exchange of good agricultural practices;

(xv) Assist countries in the enhancement of the nutritional quality of foods, where appropriate;

(xvi) Underline the need for greater access to microfinance, including microcredit, in developing countries, in particular for small farmers, which can contribute to increasing agricultural productivity and rural development;

(xvii) Assist developing countries, especially those affected by natural disasters, in the development and design of risk management systems for agriculture, including crop insurance policies;

(xviii) Take action to reduce the loss of pollinators, including through international cooperation and partnerships;

(xix) Increase awareness of non-trade distorting models where farmers are encouraged to adopt practices that would restore, maintain and enhance ecosystem services;

(b) *Create a strong enabling environment for sustainable agriculture.* In that context:

(i) Raise the share of government budgets devoted to agriculture, as appropriate, and encourage donors to respond to requests from developing countries to increase the share of official development assistance for agriculture and rural development, as appropriate;

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[26] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2400, No. 43345.

[27] Adopted by the International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, held in Interlaken, Switzerland, from 3 to 7 September 2007.

(ii) Encourage greater direct investment, including foreign direct investment consistent with national agricultural and land-use policies and international obligations, in the agriculture sector in developing countries, in particular in Africa, to support their efforts to boost sustainable agricultural production, in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals;

(iii) Underscore the importance of support to agricultural research, and calls for continued support to international agricultural research systems, especially for sustainable agriculture, including through the international research centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, as well as other relevant international organizations;

(iv) Strengthen research education and extension that advances the practice of sustainable agriculture and rural development. Improve linkages among research, instruction in schools and universities, and diffusion of knowledge by extension services;

(v) Expand agricultural extension services to help smallholders to access and take advantage of modern information and communications technology;

(vi) Strengthen multi-stakeholder participation and partnerships in the development and implementation of the sustainable agriculture and rural development practices;

(vii) Provide increased technical assistance to developing countries to strengthen national innovation capacity, training and extension services in sustainable agriculture, fish, livestock and integrated crop-forest and crop-livestock production systems;

(viii) Support the capacity of developing countries to rehabilitate and develop rural and agricultural infrastructure sectors;

(ix) Provide access for small and resource-poor farmers to the legal system and legal services;

(c) *Manage sustainably competing uses of water and land resources*. In that context:

(i) Support the implementation of sustainable and efficient water resources development and management schemes, including integrated water resources management within each country, and, where appropriate, through international cooperation, and improve irrigation efficiencies, ground water and on-farm soil, and water management practices, including for drinking water to overcome water shortages, improve water quality, and enhance food security;

(ii) Emphasize that it is essential to address the challenges and opportunities posed by biofuels, in view of the world's food security, energy and sustainable development needs, noting ongoing efforts in this regard at the international, regional and national levels;

(iii) Promote continued research and development with a view to continuously enhance the sustainability of biofuels and other bioenergy sources, including through South-South, North-South, and triangular

cooperation, and through the exchange of information and technical cooperation;

(iv) Foster expanded scientific and technical cooperation, including North-South and South-South cooperation, in the development, inter alia, of sustainable bioenergy production, arid and semi-arid agriculture, and in combating desertification;

(v) Assist developing countries to enhance their capacity to implement sustainable land management policies and programmes;

(d) *Develop sustainable agricultural value chains and improve farmers' and agro-industry enterprises access to and participation in markets*. In that context:

(i) Sustainably develop, in accordance with national circumstances and capabilities, the production and marketing of high-value and quality food staple crops and their processing. Create plans to increase the quantity and quality of the production of small-holder farmers as well as its value in local markets, including by increasing the contribution of local communities' products with the view to substantially increase the income of farmers, in particular smallholder and family farmers;

(ii) Assist developing countries to enhance their capacity to develop agro-industry;

(iii) Diffuse more widely pre- and post-harvest technologies to enable farmers in developing countries, including small-scale and women farmers, to realize greater value from their crops;

(iv) Support efforts to enhance food quality and safety and reduce wastage along the food chain by improving food handling, food testing, processing equipment, storage techniques, cold chain systems and transportation infrastructure;

(v) Encourage strong rural-urban linkages and partnerships between countryside and communities, to enhance livelihoods and food security;

(vi) As appropriate and in accordance with national conditions, build efficient and effective agricultural marketing institutions, including small-scale market infrastructure, and distribution networks, and enhance the availability of market information to farmers and farmer organizations through the effective use of information and communications technologies;

(vii) Advance the process of regional and global trade integration, including in Africa, thereby expanding markets and permitting economies of scale in agro-processing and agricultural input production;

(viii) Improve market access for high value-added agricultural exports, including processed agricultural exports, of developing countries;

(ix) Strengthen the assistance from the United Nations system and all relevant international organizations, appropriate to their mandates, to developing countries, to put in place the policies and measures to help

farmers, particularly small-scale producers, increase production and integrate with local, regional and international markets;

(x) Enhance coordination and coherence among the United Nations system and all relevant international organizations, while respecting their individual mandates, in providing capacity building to small holder farmers in developing countries;

(e) *Provide secure access to food and social safety nets.* In that context:

(i) Encourage the development and implementation, as appropriate, of national, regional and international food security strategies for developing countries;

(ii) Invite international financial institutions and other funding agencies to put in place, as needed, streamlined procedures for timely disbursal of funds for food and agricultural input purchases;

(iii) Strengthen and coordinate the international community's response to the global food crisis and longer-term support to sustainable agriculture.

B. Rural development

7. The achievement of the Millennium Development Goals is at the centre of sustainable development. Sustainable rural development is vital to the economic, social and environmental viability of nations. It is essential for poverty eradication since global poverty is overwhelmingly rural. The manifestation of poverty goes beyond the urban-rural divide, it has subregional and regional contexts. It is therefore critical, and there is great value to be gained, by coordinating rural development initiatives that contribute to sustainable livelihoods through efforts at the global, regional, national and local levels, as appropriate. Strategies to deal with rural development should take into consideration the remoteness and potentials in rural areas and provide targeted differentiated approaches.

8. A healthy and dynamic agricultural sector is an important foundation of rural development, generating strong linkages to other economic sectors. Rural livelihoods are enhanced through effective participation of rural people and rural communities in the management of their own social, economic and environmental objectives by empowering people in rural areas, particularly women and youth, including through organizations such as local cooperatives and by applying the bottom-up approach. Close economic integration of rural areas with neighbouring urban areas and the creation of rural off-farm employment can narrow rural-urban disparities, expand opportunities and encourage the retention of skilled people, including youth, in rural areas. There is considerable potential for rural job creation not only in farming, agro-processing and rural industry but also in building rural infrastructure, in the sustainable management of natural resources, waste and residues. Rural communities in developing countries are still faced with challenges related to access to basic services, economic opportunities and some degree of incoherence with regard to planning related to rural-urban divide. Investments

in environmental protection, rural infrastructure and in rural health and education are critical to sustainable rural development and can enhance national well-being. Beyond meeting basic needs, investments must be linked to the potential to raise productivity and income. The vulnerabilities of the rural poor to the economic and financial crisis and to climate change and water shortage must be addressed. The success of sustainable rural development depends on, inter alia, developing and implementing comprehensive strategies for dealing with climate change, drought, desertification and natural disaster. Related actions include:

(a) Promoting poverty eradication in rural areas;

(b) Promoting pro-poor planning and budgeting at the national and local levels;

(c) Addressing basic needs and enhancing provision of and access to services as a precursor to improve livelihoods and as an enabling factor of people's engagement in productive activities;

(d) Providing social protection programmes to benefit, inter alia, the vulnerable households, in particular the aged, persons with disabilities and unemployed many of whom are in rural areas. Actions are needed to:

(a) *Build social capital and resilience in rural communities*. In that context:

(i) Empower women and small-scale farmers, and indigenous peoples, including through securing equitable land tenure supported by appropriate legal frameworks;

(ii) Promote equitable access to land, water, financial resources and technologies by women, indigenous peoples and other vulnerable groups;

(iii) Support and promote efforts to harmonize modern technologies with traditional and indigenous knowledge for sustainable rural development;

(iv) Provide access to credit and other mechanisms as well as resources for farm-based activities, especially for small-scale farmers, including women in particular, in developing countries to better manage the various risks they face, including price, weather, climate, water shortages, land degradation and natural disasters, including by providing aid and promoting the development of agricultural insurance markets;

(v) Protect and ensure sustainable use of traditional knowledge, including indigenous knowledge in accordance with article 8 (j) of the Convention on Biological Diversity, for the management of natural resources to address the challenges of sustainable development;

(vi) Facilitate the active participation of vulnerable groups, including women, youth and indigenous peoples and rural communities, in the elaboration of local and national planning of rural development, taking into account national legislation;

(vii) Build the resilience of rural communities to cope with and recover from natural disasters;

(viii) Promote and scale up labour-intensive recovery activities in addition to capital-intensive programmes;

(ix) Support training and capacity-building of rural communities to effectively implement adaptation programmes to climate change at the local level;

(x) Invest resources to enhance research aimed at adapting to the challenges of climate change;

(xi) Foster and strengthen capacities of rural communities for self-organization for building social capital, taking into account national legislation;

(b) *Strengthen the human capacities of rural people*. In that context:

(i) Strengthen rural health-care facilities and capacities, train and increase the number of health and nutrition professionals and sustain and expand access to primary health-care systems, including through promoting equitable and improved access to affordable and efficient health-care services, including provision of basic health-care services for the poor in rural areas, in particular in Africa, for effective disease prevention and treatment;

(ii) Create and develop educational programmes for rural communities aimed at disease prevention;

(iii) Eliminate old and new forms of illiteracy in rural communities and ensure provision of primary education and access to secondary and tertiary educational opportunities as well as vocational and entrepreneurship training including proactive and market-related elements to build capacities within rural communities, in particular for youth, young girls, women and indigenous people;

(iv) Encourage rural communities' participation in decision-making, promote rural communities' empowerment and rural leadership;

(v) Improve access by rural people and communities to information, education, extension services and learning resources, knowledge and training to support sustainable development planning and decision-making;

(c) *Invest in essential infrastructure and services for rural communities*. In that context:

(i) Increase public and private investments in infrastructure in rural areas, including roads, waterways and transport systems, storage and market facilities, livestock facilities, irrigation systems, affordable housing, water supply and sanitation services,

electrification facilities, and information and communications networks;

(ii) Improve access to reliable and affordable energy services, including renewable and alternative sources of energy for sustainable rural development;

(iii) Enhance access of rural populations to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation;

(iv) Develop and improve access of rural populations to information and communications technologies, inter alia, to support Internet access and build capacities for an effective use of these technologies;

(v) Develop rural public and private services that realize the potential of those technologies, including cellular banking and e-extension services;

(vi) Promote the development of rural organizations such as community-driven cooperatives to enhance investment in essential infrastructure and services, and recognize the role of urban areas in fostering rural development;

(vii) Support improved access for all to strengthened rural health-care services and facilities;

(d) *Stimulate the creation of new jobs and income opportunities in rural areas*. In that context:

(i) Support rural diversification, including on-farm diversification towards non-agricultural and other non-primary production activities;

(ii) Provide appropriate land-use frameworks in order to support the establishment of agricultural activities and both agricultural and non-agricultural services related to sustainable rural development, while respecting the rights of rural communities and indigenous people;

(iii) Provide entrepreneurial training, credit and other support to off-farm and other non-primary production activities;

(iv) Strengthen the links between agriculture and other sectors of the rural economy;

(v) Develop sustainable ways to add value to agricultural products locally, subregionally and regionally to generate additional income;

(vi) Support the development, transfer and use of safe and environmentally sound construction technologies and practices, in particular for housing, to improve living standards and to create employment in rural areas;

(vii) Support as appropriate, sustainable tourism as a valuable source of employment and income supplement to farming and other

primary production activities, as well as sustainable natural resource management;

(viii) Actively promote sustainable forest management;

(ix) Increase access of rural populations, particularly women, youth, indigenous people and other vulnerable groups, especially in disadvantaged areas, to markets as well as affordable financial and business advisory services, such as market literacy, microcredit, loan guarantees and venture capital;

(x) Expand access to markets by assisting rural producers, associations and firms, especially those from developing countries, to respond to market demand;

(xi) Increase employment opportunities through labour-intensive approaches including green jobs and development of rural infrastructure, taking into account the decent work agenda of the International Labour Organization as an important instrument to achieve the objective of full and productive employment and decent work for all;

(xii) Develop the necessary infrastructure and encourage data collection, including disaggregated population data, synthesis and analysis, to enhance the understanding of the contribution of non-farming activities to poverty reduction and income generation in rural areas;

(xiii) Support the development of integration into market of smallholder family agriculture and sharing of experiences and best practices;

(xiv) Promote non-agricultural industries such as mining, service industries, construction and commerce, in a sustainable manner, as a source of employment and income for rural populations;

(e) *Ensure environmental sustainability in rural areas*. In that context:

(i) Encourage the use of land resources in a sustainable manner to prevent land degradation that is caused by unsustainable exploitation of land resources;

(ii) Encourage the use of environmentally friendly practices;

(iii) Promote sustainable natural resources use and management, including ecosystem conservation through community-based programmes;

(iv) Promote safe and environmentally sound waste management practices;

(f) *Promote women's empowerment and gender equality*. In that context:

(i) Involve women in decision-making in all activities related to rural development;

(ii) Take measures that promote access to and ownership of means of production, including land, capital, entrepreneurship, by women;

(iii) Promote gender equality as well as take measures to achieve equal opportunities for women and men in all aspects of rural development;

(iv) Carry out extensive education, and awareness-raising on the rights of women and the concept of empowerment and gender equality in rural areas.

C. Land

9. Land plays a crucial role for achieving poverty eradication, food security and sustainable development. Sustainable land management provides multiple benefits, such as sustaining agricultural productivity and food security and enhanced living conditions for local populations, providing ecosystem services, sequestering carbon and contributing to the regulation of climate. Land policies need to promote sustainable land management, effective administration, integrated planning and equitable land access, in keeping with Rio principle 2 on the sovereign right of States to exploit their natural resources. Actions are needed to:

(a) *Promote sustainable and integrated land-use planning and land management practices*. In that context:

(i) Ensure a balance between sustainability in its social, economic and environmental aspects, rural and urban livelihoods and food productivity in land policies and land management;

(ii) Encourage the development and implementation of systems to inventory, assess, monitor and further understand the capacity of the land to support ecosystem functions, including by integrating new tools such as the Global Soil Map with indigenous and local knowledge;

(iii) Implement long-term strategies for land-use and spatial planning, taking into account the ecological potential and availability of the land to support ecosystem functions;

(iv) Strengthen national and subnational capacities for implementing an integrated and sustainable approach to land management, including in the planning of rural and urban areas;

(v) Further strengthen the role of domestic authorities at all levels in implementing sustainable land policies consistent with national priorities;

(vi) Strengthen partnerships, networks and the participation of all relevant stakeholders in land planning and management, to facilitate a common understanding on community land resource management, including by taking into account community goals and traditional knowledge, including indigenous knowledge;

(vii) Incorporate sustainable development principles in land-use planning to enable land development and identify potential areas for conservation;

(viii) Promote transparent and decentralized land tenure and administration that is equally accessible to all citizens in accordance with national sustainable land management priorities;

(ix) Provide science-based, targeted incentives, including financial resources, for public and private investment in infrastructure and research for sustainable land management and reducing land degradation, and enhance access to credit for farmers, especially for small-scale farmers, particularly in developing countries;

(x) Enhance access to microcredit to support initial start-ups of small-scale and especially resource-poor farmers in acquiring land management technologies and adopting sustainable practices;

(xi) Promote the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity as well as sustainable forest management as an integral part of sustainable land management and combating deforestation and forest degradation;

(xii) Promote the improvement of existing and establishment of new centres of excellence in developing countries in land policy, tenure and management to enhance the knowledge and expertise necessary for the implementation of sustainable land planning, administration and management;

(xiii) Encourage the development, as appropriate, of a set of domestic land policy indicators for policy review, monitoring and evaluation, taking into account existing initiatives;

(xiv) Utilize the best available, useful and cost-effective technologies for the implementation of sustainable land management, including Geographic Information Systems for land administration and municipal planning and satellite imagery for land-use mapping;

(xv) Improve existing and develop new risk management tools that build landscape resilience, including resilience of land to natural disasters, and the impacts of climate change and systematically integrate them into land-use and spatial planning strategies;

(xvi) Strengthen and fill gaps concerning national and regional knowledge management networks and a database of land experts;

(xvii) Include key stakeholders in the establishment of knowledge management networks and a database of land experts to achieve optimum land-use sustainability while ensuring land ownership;

(xviii) Promote the exchange and transfer of information on new and improved technologies and best practices, as appropriate, through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation;

(b) *Reduce land degradation and rehabilitate degraded land.* In that context:

(i) Strongly encourage the development of policy measures to reduce land degradation that also contribute to poverty eradication and the creation of employment opportunities in developing countries;

(ii) Conserve and protect land and soil resources through land-use and spatial planning which promotes sustainable development in rural and urban areas as well as through measures such as sustainable agricultural practices, establishment of perennial vegetation land cover, agroforestry, ecoagriculture and diversification and reduced tillage, and provide capacity-building in developing countries for these purposes;

(iii) Implement policies that address the direct and indirect drivers of land degradation, such as desertification, erosion, loss of soil organic matter, salinization, pollution and unsustainable urban growth;

(iv) Implement policies that lead to the recovery of the soil's physical integrity, improving the nutrient status and increasing the amount of organic matter in the soil;

(v) Work together to strengthen capacities especially in developing countries, to apply new and existing tools and technologies for monitoring soil quality and land degradation, including by addressing the lack of current data on the extent of land degradation, and evaluating biophysical and socio-economic information.

(c) *Promote policies to manage water and land resources in an integrated manner*. In that context:

(i) Promote integrated land and water resource management in addressing land degradation, water scarcity and adapting to impacts of climate change;

(ii) Promote efficient, effective and sustainable use of water resources, including water diversification by exploring the sustainable use of groundwater and effluent waste, sustainable desalination, rainwater harvesting and support water conservation and demand management initiatives, balancing among different water uses in all ecosystems;

(iii) Strengthen the coordination and cooperation among authorities responsible for managing water and land resources;

(iv) Improve the efficiency of irrigation and water management practices, such as the use of rainfall harvesting, so as to help to address water shortages;

(v) Address the threat of coastal erosion and land losses caused by sea-level rise, in particular in small island developing States and low-lying coastal States and areas, through land-use planning and climate change adaptation programmes;

(vi) Address the problems, in particular in small island developing States, of saltwater intrusion into freshwater supplies and agricultural land;

(d) *Promote equitable access to land and clear and secure land tenure, in particular for women, indigenous peoples and other vulnerable groups*. In that context:

(i) Encourage the establishment of effective and cost-effective land administration systems that include transparent tenure and registration systems to help to promote investments and good land management, making use of the latest appropriate information technologies;

(ii) Recognizing the existence of different laws and/or systems of land access and tenure among States, strengthen the institutional and legal framework for the long-term administration of property rights and tenure systems, that take into account the established land tenure of indigenous peoples, smallholder farmers, and the rural poor as well as customary tenure arrangements and local practices, without discrimination against women and girls; and adopt policies and implement laws that promote secure and equitable access to land, and land tenure, particularly to the poor, through the recognition of equitable land rights and guarantee enforceable and secure land rights, in particular for women, indigenous people and other vulnerable groups;

(iii) Encourage the establishment of additional collaborative knowledge and information dissemination mechanisms and civic education campaigns on land rights;

(iv) Provide recognition for other use rights such as grazing and gathering wood, which are often critical sources of livelihood, especially for women;

(v) Ensure that pastoralist grazing rights are adequately protected, including facilitating mobility, as appropriate;

(vi) Promote and enable women's equitable role in decision-making related to land management and planning and access to land;

(vii) Resolve to take further effective measures to remove obstacles to the full realization of the rights of the peoples living under colonial and foreign occupation, which are incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person and must be combated and eliminated;

(e) *Enhance capacity-building, technology transfer and financing*. In that context:

(i) Mobilize financial resources, including new and additional resources from all sources, for land policies in developing countries in order to promote sustainable land management, effective administration, integrated planning and equitable land access;

(ii) Provide technical and financial assistance to developing countries as well as countries in transition that are undertaking land tenure reforms in order to enhance sustainable livelihoods;

(iii) Promote and scale up the development, transfer, as mutually agreed, dissemination and adoption, as appropriate, of safe and science-based practices, products and technologies, including advanced technologies and corresponding know-how, that enhance the sustainable use of land

resources, particularly for developing countries taking into account local conditions;

(iv) Support countries' efforts, particularly in developing countries, to enhance the scientific understanding of land resources systems through strengthened technological capacity, including, as appropriate, support for testing research findings through pilot projects;

(v) Further develop and improve human resources and capacities, particularly in developing countries, for sustainable land management through education and training activities.

D. Drought

10. Drought continues to threaten the livelihoods of millions of people. Combating drought is necessary to achieving sustainable development goals, including the maintenance of ecosystem services, and improving the livelihoods of millions of people living in drought-prone regions. The effects of climate change heighten the risk of droughts and drought severity and increase the need for effective drought management and disaster risk reduction. Drought must be addressed in an integrated fashion with the other themes of the current Commission on Sustainable Development cycle, considering social, economic and environmental aspects. Strategies for drought management, including contingency planning should be incorporated into sustainable agricultural practices, soil conservation, crop diversification and integrated water resources management and combating desertification, taking into account the legal framework and mandate of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification[28] and its role in mitigating the effects of drought. Actions are needed to:

(a) *Create a robust enabling environment for drought preparedness and mitigation.* In that context:

(i) Prepare national drought management plans and/or risk reduction strategies and invite donors to assist developing countries in their efforts to integrate issues related to drought into national, regional and global sustainable development strategies and plans;

(ii) Support more proactive drought risk-management approaches;

(iii) Integrate policies and strategies for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, taking into account the Hyogo Framework for Action, 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters[29] and the Millennium Development Goals into national drought management plans and/or risk reduction strategies;

(iv) Highlight the importance of integrated water resources management as called for in the resolution of the Commission at its thirteenth session;[30]

[28] Ibid., vol. 1954, No. 33480.

[29] See Report of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, Kobe, Hyogo, Japan, 18-22 January 2005 (A/CONF.206/6), chap. I, resolution II.

[30] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council 2005, Supplement No. 9* (E/2005/29-E/CN.17/2005/12, chap. I.C., resolution 13/1.

(v) Promote and implement effective national, regional and global drought information, forecasting and early warning systems that disseminate reliable information for communities living in drought-prone regions to enable them to take appropriate and proactive measures, with adequate support from their respective Governments, relevant institutions such as new and existing drought observatories and the international community;

(vi) Implement sustainable forest management, in particular reducing deforestation and promoting conservation and rehabilitation of vegetation cover, to combat desertification, mitigate drought effects and reduce land degradation as well as the adverse impacts of climate change;

(vii) Promote sustainable management of soil as one means for mitigating drought effects;

(viii) Promote North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation and partnering for capacity-building and improving effectiveness in planning, monitoring and implementation of drought management plans, including data gathering, information management, modelling, and forecasting;

(ix) Continue to mobilize financial resources from all sources to mitigate the effects of drought, including in accordance with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, particularly articles 5, 6 and 20;

(b) *Strengthen the knowledge base and information-sharing on drought, water stress and drought risk management.* In that context:

(i) Invest in research and development, robust data collection, including through remote sensing, and information to assess and identify risk and to predict, plan for and manage droughts across time scales from seasonal to multi-year events, including short-, medium- and long-term events, taking into account traditional knowledge;

(ii) Promote the exchange of information, experiences and lessons learned in relation to drought risk management and reduction and increase public awareness about traditional and adaptable practices;

(iii) Encourage, and where appropriate, establish scientifically based drought- and desertification-related local, national, and where appropriate, regional indicators and benchmarks and related web-based information systems, bearing in mind the set of indicators under development within the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification regarding the ten-year strategic plan and framework;

(iv) Establish guidelines for the development of drought indices for use in different parts of the world to facilitate the compilation and reporting of drought conditions;

(v) Increase knowledge-sharing and information on weather forecasts and climatic conditions among relevant key stakeholders, and increase the capacity to use such information before, during and after drought events;

(vi) Mobilize and enhance funding and support research and development on the underlying causes and effects of drought, including social, economic and environmental perspectives, as well as for improved techniques and practices that can improve food security and reduce human vulnerability;

(vii) Facilitate access to climate-related data relevant to mitigating the effects of drought, in accordance with national legislation, to relevant stakeholders for sustainable development;

(c) *Enhance the resilience of communities to drought.* In that context:

(i) Enhance social and economic resilience in drought-prone communities by encouraging community-based land tenure based on good governance principles, mixed livestock production and cropping, the implementation of water management schemes and the expansion of weather insurance schemes;

(ii) Continue to mobilize funding for research on and development of drought-tolerant seed varieties targeted towards national specificities, and facilitate access to such varieties, especially in drought prone countries in the developing world, while bearing in mind the use of improved irrigation techniques and enhancing water efficiency measures;

(iii) Encourage support for new and current strategies of rural communities to cope with and increase resilience to drought;

(iv) Promote sustainable land-use practices, including sustainable agricultural practices aimed at mitigating the effects of and adapting to drought;

(v) Promote globally improved information communications and data sharing, modelling and forecasting capabilities, including indigenous knowledge and improved user-based community resilience planning and implementation for rural and other communities, particularly in developing countries;

(vi) Promote innovative technical solutions and practices, combining them with traditional knowledge, for drought forecasting, impact assessment and early warning information systems and sustainable integrated water management;

(vii) Promote the participation of local communities in mitigating the effects of drought, combating desertification and land degradation, in particular by encouraging the involvement of vulnerable groups, including women, youth, pastoralists and indigenous peoples in decision-making processes leading to policies related to drought risk reduction;

(d) *Enhance capacity-building, technology transfer and financing.* In that context:

(i) Promote access to affordable, appropriate and necessary technology, and provide corresponding capacity-building to enable drought forecasting and planning, development of user-based drought-related management triggers across time scales, and sustainable

management, including efficient use of scarce resources and arable land, as mutually agreed;

(ii) Provide technical support and enhance financial means to implement national and regional early warning systems to address drought, allowing for, inter alia, improved drought management plans, preparation, rapid mitigation and adaptation to drought, especially in developing countries;

(iii) Invite the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification to continue to include drought risk reduction strategies and drought management plans in its work;

(iv) Strengthen cooperation and coordination among the three Rio Conventions to mitigate the effects of drought, while respecting their individual mandates.

E. Desertification

11. Desertification and land degradation in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas are global problems that require a global response through concerted efforts, as recognized in the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. Desertification and land degradation continue to adversely affect agricultural activities, rural and urban development, land use, water resources and efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger and promote health and well-being. Combating desertification and land degradation and mitigating the effect of droughts require policies that, inter alia, link land use, food security and livelihoods to the goals of sustainable development, taking into account the adverse impacts of climate change and land use on land degradation, biodiversity losses and desertification and on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Actions are needed to:

(a) *Strengthen the institutional framework for policy implementation.* In that context:

(i) Enhance cooperation among the Rio Conventions, while respecting their individual mandates, concerned by the negative impacts that desertification, land degradation, loss of biodiversity and climate change have on each other, and recognizing the potential benefits of complementarities in addressing these problems in a mutually supportive manner;

(ii) Call upon Governments where appropriate in collaboration with relevant multilateral organizations, including the Global Environment Facility implementation agencies, to integrate desertification and land degradation into their plans and strategies for sustainable development;

(iii) Integrate national action plans related to drought and desertification into national development strategies;

(iv) Ensure that national action plans in small island developing States address desertification of coastal areas;

(v) Support the implementation of the provisions of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification as well as the ten-year strategic plan, including through regional and international cooperation, provision of adequate and predictable financing, technology transfer and capacity-building;

(b) *Implement practical measures to combat land degradation and desertification.* In that context:

(i) Recognize the interrelationship between climate change, biodiversity loss and desertification and the need to intensify efforts to combat desertification and promote sustainable land management;

(ii) Promote sustainable land use and livelihoods, enhanced soil productivity, water use efficiency and greater tenure security for people living in the affected areas, including pastoralists;

(iii) Protect land resources through community-based sustainable natural resources management, based on scientific and indigenous knowledge;

(iv) Promote the rehabilitation and improved management of degraded lands, including increased integration of pastoral and agricultural land uses and the use of best farming and rangeland management practices;

(v) Promote sustainable water management and efficient irrigation, water conservation and utilization of alternative water sources, including flood water and subsurface flows;

(vi) Encourage land users to invest in soil and water conservation, including through land tenure security and access rights to land and natural resources for the rural population, particularly women, indigenous people and other vulnerable groups;

(vii) Reduce soil erosion and promote soil water retention through sustainable forest management and sustainable agroforestry practices;

(viii) Undertake measures and provide international assistance, promote national action and encourage subregional, regional and international cooperation to prevent sand dune movement, and reduce the frequency and severity of sandstorms, inter alia, by strengthening early warning systems and restoring vegetation and supporting related initiatives of rural communities in affected areas, particularly in developing countries;

(ix) Support appropriate traditional practices and local knowledge concerning land use, water management and agricultural activities;

(x) Harmonize various sectoral policies and programmes at the national level for arresting and reversing land degradation, and build coordination through convergence;

(c) *Enhance capacity-building, transfer technology and financing.* In that context:

(i) Promote scientific research and strengthen the scientific base on desertification and drought, which is essential for informed decision-making on sustainable land management and to measure the results and monitor the impact of programmes combating desertification;

(ii) Support the improvement of existing and the establishment of new centres of excellence and monitoring in developing countries to combat desertification and promote capacity-building to adopt and implement, inter alia, integrated techniques for the conservation of natural resources and their sustainable use, and invite regional and international programmes and funds as well as donors to provide support to affected countries in their endeavours to combat desertification;

(iii) Support the establishment of and strengthen existing disaster management capacities at all levels, including information and early warning systems that allow effective management of the risks associated with drought, desertification, land degradation and the adverse impacts of climate change;

(iv) Expand access to appropriate technologies to assess, analyse and quantify the nature, severity and impacts of land degradation and desertification and remedial actions, using remote sensing and Geographical Information Systems;

(v) Support developing countries in the development, deployment and diffusion of technologies on mutually agreed terms, including the sharing and scaling up of best practices and lessons learned in approaches undertaken at all levels to combat desertification such as sustainable agricultural practices, and conservation and rehabilitation of vegetation cover;

(vi) Build the capacity of affected communities to address the impacts of desertification by promoting participation, including through participatory approaches that involve civil society, local communities, indigenous people and other major groups, in particular women in decision-making and policy formulation;

(vii) Invest in sustainable land management, including land-use planning, sustainable management of forests and other natural resources, as it relates to combating desertification and land degradation in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas;

(viii) Mobilize adequate, predictable and timely financial resources for the implementation of the ten-year strategic plan of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, in accordance with article 20 of the Convention, and continue to support the awareness-raising and policy work of the Convention secretariat;

(ix) Encourage developed countries and invite the Global Environment Facility Council to provide in the fifth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility adequate, timely, and predictable financial resources, including new and additional financial resources, for the focal area on land degradation;

(x) Invite the Global Environment Facility to facilitate access by affected countries, particularly those in Africa, to the full range of Global Environment Facility funds relating to land degradation and desertification;

(xi) Enhance regional cooperation in particular within the framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, including through its five regional implementation annexes, and support regional initiatives and related national programmes for combating desertification, including the environment programme of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, the TerrAfrica Programme and other regional initiatives;

(xii) Strengthen international development cooperation, taking into account the relevance of addressing desertification and land degradation in accordance with the commitments under paragraph 18 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation to mobilize adequate and predictable financial resources from all sources.

F. Africa

12. Strong economic performance in Africa is needed to ensure an enabling environment for sustainable development. African countries have taken the leadership in addressing sustainable development challenges, including challenges for sustainable agricultural development, and charting the way forward at the local, national, regional and continental levels, through such initiatives as the New Partnership for Africa's Development. Nonetheless, average gross domestic product growth remains below the minimum target of seven per cent set by the Partnership and has often occurred in sectors with little impact on employment and income for the majority. Africa still faces challenges in meeting the Millennium Development Goals targets, which are not on track, inter alia, as a result of poorly developed infrastructure, the lack of institutional capacity, and the continuing needs for investment in agriculture. Africa needs a green revolution to help to boost agricultural productivity, food production and national and regional food security in a way which supports ecosystem functions. This would provide a strong foundation for addressing rural poverty, land degradation, drought and desertification. The ongoing multiple global crises pose a serious challenge to the sustainable development prospects of Africa, including sustainable agricultural development. Actions are therefore required at the local, national, regional and global levels to support the ecologically and socially sustainable use of natural resources, the diversification of African economies as well as an African green revolution and the economic, social and environmental dimension of Africa's sustainable development. Actions are needed to:

(a) *Revitalize agriculture as the basis for sustainable rural development.* In that context:

(i) Reaffirm the political declaration on Africa's development needs;[11] adopted at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly, on 22 September 2008;

(ii) Take note of the High-level Ministerial Declaration on African Agriculture in the Twenty-First Century: Meeting the Challenges, Making a Sustainable Green Revolution,[18] adopted in Windhoek on 10 February 2009 and other relevant meetings such as the Second African

Conference on Sanitation and Hygiene, held in Durban, South Africa, in February 2008, and the Eleventh Ordinary Session of the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government, held in Sharm El-Shaik, Egypt, in July 2008;

(iii) Also take note of the International Conference on Water for Agriculture and Energy in Africa, held in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, in December 2008, and the African Conference of Ministers in Charge of Environment on Climate Change for Post 2012, held in Algiers, in November 2008;

(iv) Accelerate agricultural development in line with the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, including the implementation of the Maputo Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security in Africa;

(v) Encourage and facilitate investment in rural infrastructure specifically to address the socio-economic development of rural communities and vulnerable groups;

(vi) Stimulate private investments in agriculture while supporting small farmers, gender equality, and promoting corporate social responsibility and environmental sustainability;

(vii) Increase donor support in order to meet existing commitment for the further development of African agriculture to complement domestic resource mobilization;

(viii) Increase research and development efforts for sustainable agriculture and rural development;

(ix) Support the revision and implementation of sustainable public agricultural policies, involving civil society and the private sector, for strengthening smallholder farms;

(x) Promote equitable access to land and clear and secure land tenure, in particular for women, indigenous peoples and other vulnerable groups;

(xi) Improve land governance, address reasons causing land conflicts and reduce land conflicts;

(xii) Take measures to boost productivity and sustainability, including by access to microfinance and skills development for farmers, especially women farmers;

(xiii) Ensure the equitable and sustainable use, as well as promote integrated management and development, of national and shared water resources in Africa, in accordance with existing international agreements and national priorities;

(xiv) Incorporate the social aspects of agricultural transformation into policy decisions, including managing rural-urban migrations, including through strong urban and rural job creation;

(xv) Support African countries to integrate climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction based on scientific and traditional knowledge

and local experience into agricultural policies as well as national development plans;

(b) *Integrate African farmers and local entrepreneurs into agricultural supply chains.* In that context:

(i) Provide timely access by farmers to affordable public and private inputs and credit and access to public and private insurance instruments;

(ii) Support further the participation of farmer organizations into decision-making processes at all levels;

(iii) Facilitate and support the strengthening of commercial and technical capacity of farmer organizations, including through extension services;

(iv) Increase support, from all sources, to the improvement of market infrastructure and market information systems, including the development and strengthening of rural-urban linkages;

(v) Increase efforts to lower barriers and improve infrastructure to create and expand sustainable domestic and regional food markets;

(vi) Develop national systems incorporating both public and private initiatives to reduce pre- and post- harvest losses, especially through infrastructure and transport development, improvement of storage capacity and supply chains functioning and technology transfer where mutually agreed;

(vii) Foster agro-industries and generate local value added;

(viii) Encourage agro-ecological practices, including the promotion of traditional agricultural practices and, in general, indigenous knowledge, as some of the resources to develop sustainable agricultural production models;

(c) *Promote an enabling environment for sustainable development.* In that context:

(i) Reaffirm that good governance at all levels is essential for sustained economic growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development;

(ii) Welcome and further encourage the progress many African countries have made with respect to implementing pro-poor economic policies, deepening democracy, protecting human rights and strengthening active participation of civil society and other major stakeholders;

(iii) Stress the importance of African-led initiatives to strengthen political, economic and corporate governance, such as the Africa Peer Review Mechanism;

(iv) Underline that development, peace and security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing;

(v) Stress that conflict prevention, resolution and management and post-conflict consolidation are essential for the achievement of sustainable development in Africa;

(vi) Welcome and encourage the continuing progress that the African Union and the subregional organizations have made in this regard, inter alia, through the strengthening of Africa's peace and security architecture;

(vii) Support and strengthen Governments' capacities to manage their resources by strengthening and adhering to their policies and legislations;

(viii) Acknowledge that Africa is the first regional group to have already adopted a regional Ten-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, which could be used as a tool for poverty eradication;

(d) *Ensure the integration of Africa into world trade.* In that context:

(i) Improve the access and integration of farmers into local, regional and world markets;

(ii) Accelerate Africa's regional integration and integration into world markets;

(iii) Encourage further coordination among the African Union, the New Partnership for Africa's Development partners and the regional economic communities;

(iv) Encourage and support African regional economic organizations to play a key role within the context of the ongoing multiple global crises. Regarding food security, underline the key role that regional economic organizations should play in terms of: support to and coordination of national strategies and policies for agricultural development and food security; improvement of the institutional environment for the agricultural economy; and sustainable management of trans-boundary water resources, in accordance with international agreements;

(e) *Continue to reduce the debt burden of African countries.* In that context:

(i) Continue efforts, including through effective debt management, to achieve long-term debt sustainability, which is an essential underpinning for growth, as well as for efforts to achieve national sustainable development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

(ii) Continue to focus on the poorest countries, but also extend debt restructuring, as necessary and appropriate, even to those countries that are not eligible for assistance under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative;

(f) *Increase development aid to Africa.* In that context:

(i) Scale up international community support for the implementation of various programmes under the auspices of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, in particular its Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme and its environment programme;

(ii) Urge donors to meet commitments in particular the Group of Eight commitment to double official development assistance to Africa by 2010 in order to support efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, in particular poverty eradication;

(iii) Ensure that increases in the volume of official development assistance are accompanied by improvements in the effectiveness of aid, including the full implementation of the Accra Agenda for Action;

(iv) Ensure the official development assistance is supportive of national development priorities and poverty reduction programmes and respects national systems of recipient countries so as to increase national ownership and effectiveness;

(v) Increase efforts to promote North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation to further the implementation of sustainable development in Africa;

(g) *Increase domestic and foreign investment.* In that context:

(i) Increase investment in all types of infrastructure and maintenance of existing infrastructure, in particular rural infrastructure to support rural development, and investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency, where appropriate;

(ii) Encourage private capital to increase flows to Africa by developing a conducive investment climate through international cooperation and global partnership;

(iii) Support economic diversification through investments and focus on activities that add value for exports;

(h) *Improve income distribution and promote social development.* In that context:

(i) Increase socio-economic benefits to the general population, in particular rural communities and women;

(ii) Promote actions to improve the access of African populations, in particular the most vulnerable ones, to basic primary services and support sustainable economic growth in order to improve the livelihoods of African populations;

(iii) Prioritize, where appropriate, national expenditures on and international aid flows to water and sanitation, as well as for capacity-building, the promotion of integrated water resources management and public-private partnerships;

(iv) Encourage support in strengthening health systems, in particular on reducing infant and maternal mortality and addressing HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, and highlight the need to provide access to adequate nutrition to affected communities and households;

(v) Encourage all efforts to support access to basic primary education and promote improvements in the quality of education in all African countries at all levels, focusing in particular on women's and girls' education and education in post-conflict areas;

(vi) Support existing centres of excellence and encourage the establishment of new centres;

(vii) Support efforts to generate and deepen knowledge and research, inclusive of technical and vocational training and higher education systems;

(i) *Promote, enable and support adaptation to climate change.* In that context:

Promote, enable and support the implementation of the three Rio Conventions in Africa, and in this context ensure cooperation and coordination while respecting the individual mandates.

G. Interlinkages and cross-cutting issues, including means of implementation

13. Following the significant work already undertaken, coherence should continue to be enhanced between and within international processes and institutions having an impact on agriculture, food security and rural development, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Food Programme and International Fund for Agricultural Development, while noting the work already undertaken by the United Nations Secretary-General's High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis.

14. Policy options and practical measures to expedite implementation should be participatory, multidisciplinary, multisectoral and mutually reinforcing. Policy options should take into consideration the interlinkages among the issues of the thematic clusters as well as cross-cutting issues in order to realize synergies and co-benefits.

15. The eradication of poverty and hunger remains the overarching objective of sustainable development. To this end, the immediate objective should be to meet the Millennium Development Goal of halving, by 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger in accordance with the Millennium Declaration target.

16. National sustainable development strategies should address in an integrated manner the social, economic and environmental pillars. These strategies should address, inter alia, the social dimension of globalization, the challenges of international migration, gender equality, multi-stakeholder engagement and policy coherence, as well as strategic assessments, in accordance with national legislation.

17. Revitalizing agriculture and promoting rural development can make an important contribution to eradicating poverty and hunger and to achieving food security as well as to improved health, the empowerment of women and the creation of productive employment opportunities for women, youth, indigenous peoples and local communities. Actions are needed to:

(a) Improve funding and strengthen public health systems in order to better combat, in particular, communicable diseases such as tuberculosis, malaria and HIV/AIDS;

(b) Increase investment in education infrastructure, and promote universal and free access to primary education and development of human resources capacity through appropriate education and training programmes in particular for rural youth in poor and vulnerable communities and expand access to education opportunities at all levels;

(c) Promote education and extension services related to agriculture and the food value chain in rural areas at all levels;

(d) Improve the knowledge base for national and regional policy responses to environmental threats to health by strengthening international capacity-building initiatives that assess health and environmental linkages;

(e) Undertake measures to improve and sustain the livelihoods of vulnerable groups such as women, youth, children, seniors, nomadic pastoralists, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities and people living in very remote areas in developing countries;

(f) Empower rural women and promote land ownership and secure land tenure for women farmers; target capacity-building strategies at women farmers and women-headed households;

(g) Strengthen the human resources and institutional capacity of small island developing States and Africa for integrated rural development and sustainable management of natural resources, including in coastal zones and marine fisheries, wetlands, and build the capacity of small island developing States and Africa's rural communities to help themselves, including by empowering women and youth;

(h) Promote the role of local authorities in partnership with other major groups to exchange information, build networks and create markets for small farmers, especially women and youth.

18. All countries and the international community should strive to manage biodiversity, water, land, and forest in a sustainable manner that also supports ecosystem functions, for the benefit of present and future generations and to facilitate the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

19. The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation sets out three overarching objectives of, and essential requirements for, sustainable development. Fundamental changes in the way societies produce and consume are indispensable for achieving global sustainable development. Actions include:

(a) Promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns, taking actions, including through the Marrakech Process, with developed countries taking the lead, with all countries benefiting from the process and taking into account the Rio principles including, inter alia, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities;

(b) Encouraging and promoting the development of ten-year frameworks of programmes in support of regional and national initiatives, to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production, to promote social and economic development within the carrying capacity of ecosystems by addressing and where appropriate, delinking economic growth and environment degradation through improving efficiency and sustainability

in the use of resources and production processes and reducing resource degradation, pollution and waste, for deliberation at the eighteenth and nineteenth sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development. In this regard, all countries should take action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development needs and capabilities of developing countries through mobilization, from all sources, of financial and technical assistance and capacity-building for developing countries;

(c) Supporting sustainable agricultural production including alternative methods of farming;

(d) Encouraging science-based approaches, such as life cycle analyses, which can help promote more sustainable production practices and offer consumers more sustainable consumption choices;

(e) Promoting education, awareness raising and information, as these can change consumers' behaviour and thus function as a means towards more sustainable lifestyles.

20. Climate change is an urgent global priority that has emerged as a key interlinkage that must be addressed in the context of sustainable development in accordance with the principle of common and differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. It impacts all themes under consideration in the current Commission on Sustainable Development cycle namely agriculture, land, rural development, drought, desertification, and Africa. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[31] is the key instrument for addressing climate change. Deliberations on this issue at the Commission should not prejudice the ongoing negotiations under the Framework Convention. In this regard, take actions to:

(a) Support the integration of climate change adaptation measures and disaster risk reduction strategies in agricultural and rural development strategies, sustainable land management and action plans to combat drought and desertification, in particular in developing countries;

(b) Support the development, transfer and diffusion of new technologies in developing countries, across the six themes as appropriate, including, inter alia, for resilient crop varieties and soil management methods to decrease vulnerability to climate change;

(c) Implement the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in a manner that addresses climate change adaptation needs.

21. As contained in many outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits such as the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the provision of means of implementation is critical to achieving global, regional and national policies in various areas, including the thematic areas of this cycle. The means of implementation encompass a range of policy options and practical measures. To complement local and national actions, international cooperation is essential. The internationally agreed development goals including those contained in the Millennium Declaration and Agenda 21, as well as in the

[31] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, will require significant financial resources as elaborated in the Monterrey Consensus, including through new and additional financial resources, in particular to developing countries, to support the implementation of national policies and programmes developed by them, improve trade opportunities, access to and transfer of environmentally sound technologies, awareness-raising, and capacity-building. Actions are needed to:

(a) *Enhance availability and effective use of finance for sustainable development.* In that context:

(i) Call for the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to developing countries by 2015, and to reach the level of at least 0.5 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance by 2010, as well as the target of 0.15-0.20 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to least developed countries, and urge those developed countries that have not yet done so to make concrete efforts in this regard in accordance with their commitments, recognizing the essential role of official development assistance, and the importance of other sources of financing for development, and deliver on commitments made in the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development;

(ii) Increase efforts to improve the quality of official development assistance and to increase its development impact. The Economic and Social Council Development Cooperation Forum, along with recent initiatives, such as the High-level Forums on Aid Effectiveness which produced the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and 2008 Accra Agenda for Action, make important contributions to the efforts of those countries, which have committed to them, including through the adoption of the fundamental principles of national ownership, alignment, harmonization, and managing for results. Bearing in mind that there is no-one-size-fits-all formula which will guarantee effective aid assistance, the specific situation of each country needs to be fully considered;

(iii) Enhance multilateral support, in particular from the Global Environment Facility and international financial institutions, and simplify Global Environment Facility procedures;

(iv) Create an enabling environment at all levels for public and private capital flows, including foreign direct investment, taking into account national policies, to boost economic growth and contribute to technology transfer, employment generation and infrastructure development;

(v) Continue to address all relevant issues regarding external debt problems, including through the United Nations, and consider ways to explore enhanced approaches of sovereign debt restructuring mechanisms based on existing frameworks and principles, with broad creditors' and debtors' participation and ensuring comparable burden-sharing among creditors, with an important role for the Bretton Woods institutions;

(vi) Improve access to finance, including microfinance, in particular to local communities, farmers, and small businesses;

(vii) Support and encourage good governance at all levels recognizing that it is essential for achieving sustainable development;

(b) *Support the world trading system, recognizing the major role trade plays in achieving sustainable development.* In that context:

(i) Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory, and equitable multilateral trading system;

(ii) Provide duty-free and quota-free market access for all least developed countries in accordance with previous commitments;

(iii) Assist developing countries, particularly least developed countries, with the aim to help developing countries with trade policies and regulations, trade development, building productive capacities, trade-related infrastructure, trade-related adjustment and other trade-related needs;

(c) *Enhance and promote capacity-building efforts and promote the transfer of technologies to developing countries.* In that context:

(i) Implement targeted capacity-building programmes in areas relevant to the thematic cluster, their interlinkages and the cross-cutting issues, in coordination with local, national and regional institutions;

(ii) Strengthen South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation and enhance support from the United Nations development system in promoting such cooperation to enhance financial resources, comprehensive capacity-building, exchange of information and know-how and technology transfer;

(iii) Implement fully the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building,[32] and continue to work towards achieving the goals contained in Agenda 21, including those in chapter 34;

(iv) Increase investments in training, research and development, in particular on sustainable practices and technologies, including agricultural technologies, and accelerate the transfer and diffusion of such technologies, information, methods, practices to reach all users, including farmers, women, youth and indigenous people and those in remote rural areas;

(v) Build capacity for land-use planning aimed at managing land within ecological capacity taking into account long-term potential, soil information and integrating scientific and indigenous knowledge;

Follow-up on agriculture and rural development

2. *Calls upon* Member States to strengthen the capacities of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Food Programme, within their mandates,

[32] UNEP/6C.23/6/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex.

to provide increased assistance to developing countries, in particular in Africa, on sustainable agriculture and rural development and food security, and requests the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in collaboration with the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Food Programme to follow up the implementation of the provisions of this decision on agriculture and rural development;

Follow-up on land, drought and desertification

3. *Further calls* upon Member States to support and strengthen the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification for the implementation of the Ten-Year Strategic Plan and Framework to Enhance the Implementation of the Convention, and encourages enhanced coherence among United Nations programmes, funds, agencies and entities working on desertification, drought and land issues, in cooperation with the Convention secretariat;

Follow-up on Africa

4. *Decides* to devote, in 2012 and 2016, without prejudice to the programme, organization and methods of work of the Commission adopted at its eleventh session, a separate segment at its review sessions, to monitor and follow up the implementation of its decision on Africa taken at the Commission's seventeenth session.

Resolution 17/2
Preparations for the high-level meeting to review progress made in addressing the vulnerabilities of small island developing States through the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation

The Commission on Sustainable Development,

Recalling the decision of the General Assembly, in its resolution 63/213 of 19 December 2008, to convene a two-day high-level review in September 2010 as part of its sixty-fifth session, to assess progress made in addressing the vulnerabilities of small island developing States through the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States ("Mauritius Strategy for Implementation"),[1]

Recalling also that the high-level review should be preceded by national and regional preparations in a most effective, well-structured and broad participatory manner, and stressing that the review should provide the international community with an opportunity to conduct an assessment of the progress made, lessons learned and constraints encountered in the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation and agree on what needs to be done to further address the vulnerabilities of small island developing States,

[1] *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

1. *Welcomes* the work in progress in all small island developing States to continue implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation, and calls upon the international community, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental bodies to further support the efforts of small island developing States in this regard;

2. *Requests* the Commission on Sustainable Development, at its eighteenth session, to use the Small Island Developing States day as a preparatory committee meeting for the high-level review;

3. *Decides* that the one-day preparatory meeting shall consider a synthesis report to be prepared by the Secretary-General on the basis of:

(a) National and regional reports, where available;

(b) The outcomes of three regional review workshops to be organized by the Division for Sustainable Development, in collaboration with members of the specialized agencies, relevant regional and international agencies and organizations, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Commission on Sustainable Development, the rules of procedure of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the established practices of the Commission, and encourages all countries and relevant entities of the United Nations system to participate fully in the activities identified for the preparations for the high-level review of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation.

Decision 17/1
Draft programme of work for the biennium 2010-2011 for the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs*

3. At its 14th meeting, on 15 May 2009, the Commission decided to take note of the draft programme of work for the biennium 2010-2011 for the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (E/CN.17/2007/10).

Chairperson's summary
Shared vision

1. During the high-level segment of the seventeenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, ministers, other heads of delegations, representatives of major groups and representatives of United Nations bodies, shared their vision on the topics of fundamental importance to our economies, societies and to the future of sustainable development: agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa. We have come to understand the deep interconnections among these topics, and their close relationship to many other important topics, starting with the eradication of hunger and extreme poverty and continuing through climate change.

2. The Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon, stated: "the United Nations advances the idea of sustainable development as a way of escaping from a cycle of poverty degradation and despair. This idea of an integrated and

* For the discussion, see chap. III, para. 9.

comprehensive approach to development remains as valid today as ever. It shows how to address the climate crisis, the food crisis and the energy crisis. It provides durable solutions to the financial crisis and global recession. We must follow the wisdom of the Brundtland report. We must pursue development that meets the needs of the present generation without comprising the ability of future generations to meet their needs".

3. The multiple challenges the world is facing in terms of climate change, the degradation of ecosystems, food insecurity, the financial meltdown and the economic recession require an integrated response that ensures that short-term emergencies are addressed while developing long-term strategies within the framework of sustainable development. With the economic crisis, many countries, especially developing countries, are hard hit by collapsing exports, capital flight and rising unemployment.

4. Still, to feed a growing population adequately and to allow for improved nutrition under conditions of growing water scarcity, climate change, soil depletion and ecosystem degradation, business as usual will not suffice. Ministers highlighted the urgency of appropriate national and international action and greater cooperation to bring about a paradigm shift and to realize a truly sustainable green revolution that reverses the widespread trends of declining agricultural productivity and incomes. Nothing less is needed than a revolution in ideas and a revolution in technologies, supported by a revolution in trade policies and market access and the financial means to implement it.

5. With sharing our vision, we underlined our deeper appreciation of the centrality of agriculture to sustainable development: agriculture in the broad sense, including livestock raising, agroforestry and mixed systems. Farmers, in particular women farmers and small farmers, are at the heart of sustainable agriculture. Farmers are central to the enterprise of building and sustaining a productive, resilient agricultural sector — here again, farmers in the broad sense, including pastoralists, farmer workers and others who make a living from the land. This includes women and men, and the important place of women in farming needs to be recognized. Farmers feed the world, yet far too many of them put their children to bed underfed. This injustice must cease.

6. We must commit ourselves to working to create the conditions and provide the opportunities and resources so that farmers everywhere can increase their food production, send their children to school, and enjoy rising living standards and fulfilling lives. This applies specifically to small farmers.

7. A paradigm shift is needed. Agriculture should no longer be seen as part of the problem, but are part of the solution. Agriculture is at the heart of poverty eradication. It is at the heart of sustainable development. It is also increasingly at the heart of climate change.

8. The hard work which farmers do has great value, but it is too often undervalued by society. We tend to forget that, before the food crisis which struck a year ago, for decades farmers faced declining real prices for their products. To some extent that reflected rising productivity, but to a large extent it translated into stagnant or even declining incomes.

9. It is heartening that, in some rapidly growing economies, many farmers and rural households have lifted themselves out of abject poverty over the past few

decades. Yet, there are many millions of farmers who are still desperately poor and many more for whom poverty is just a drought or pest infestation away.

10. We know that the vast majority of the world's poor are farmers and rural people. We know that, if we are to eradicate extreme poverty, we must start by working with and for farmers, supporting rural development. We need to give higher priority to agriculture and food security than in the past, including in the national plans of Governments.

11. Farmers and rural people through their farming practices, including organic farming, are custodians of the land and water on which our existence depends. They are also custodians of the forests, of biodiversity, and of other natural resources which help to sustain agriculture and much else. Yet, until now, that custodianship has gone largely unrecognized and unrewarded. Their traditional knowledge has been underappreciated and undervalued.

12. We have to focus on putting the sustainable development of agriculture on the international agenda again. This aspiration is starting to become a reality. It is likely to continue to do so in the years ahead. We may well be on the cusp of an agricultural and rural revival, laying the foundations for the bio-based economies of the future. We urgently need such a revival to feed the world's growing population, to improve the nutritional levels of the millions of people currently suffering from malnutrition and hunger, all while nurturing the land and keeping it fertile and conserving scarce water resources. Elements of such a revival are increasing our investments in sustainable agriculture; creating an enabling environment; developing sustainable production and food chains; improving market access especially for developing countries; and providing social safety nets and access to finance, for example, microcredit.

13. Developing countries, with their growing populations and rising living standards, should be at the centre of this agricultural and rural revival. For many, halting and reversing land degradation and desertification is a high priority. Many need urgently to boost agricultural productivity and to do so sustainably. Intensifying agriculture for food security must include a vigorous response to major environmental changes such as desertification, land degradation and drought.

14. Africa, above all, could benefit from a sustainable green revolution, that is, an agricultural productivity revolution that is economically viable, socially equitable and environmentally sustainable. A green revolution, especially in Africa, would have to be not a single but many revolutions, each tailored to diverse local agro-ecological conditions and cropping systems.

15. Such a revolution needs to wed traditional and indigenous knowledge with modern technologies and the latest scientific knowledge about agriculture and the roots of sustainability. It is critical that countries share experiences and innovative technologies and cooperate in training and developing human capacities. Technologies and knowledge are available, but their wider diffusion and uptake by farmers are a key challenge and need to be addressed.

16. The political will of national Governments and the support of the international community are both needed to make a sustainable green revolution happen. There is a need for increased and well-targeted investments, both public and private, in agriculture: investments in rural infrastructure to boost productivity and link farmers to markets, and in agricultural research and teaching, making full use of indigenous

knowledge and responding to farmers' needs and local conditions; in enhanced extension services which can bring to farmers the latest productive and sustainable practices and involve them in turn as extension agents; in post-harvest technologies to reduce losses and raise farmers' incomes; in sustainable value-added food chains, market infrastructure and support institutions.

17. Governments have to make many of these investments, but it was recognized that the private sector must play a central role in expanding agriculture production, building agricultural value chains and assessing the potential of new technologies, including genetically modified organisms. Investments in revitalizing developing country agriculture and promoting sustainable rural development will need to be supported by new and additional resources from all sources, such as from private, public, domestic and international sources.

18. Investments in agriculture will only pay off if there is a supportive enabling environment — domestic, regional and international, including regional partnerships, North-South and South-South partnerships and public-private partnerships among all relevant stakeholders. Government policies and strong institutions are needed to support agriculture. Timely information is also essential for farmers — on the weather, on market and input prices, on new market opportunities and new farming methods. This requires a strengthening of traditional information providers, such as extension services. At the same time, new information technologies are already being used by farmers all over the world as a tool of their trade, but their full potential is only beginning to be tapped and needs to be strengthened.

19. Farmers also need to be able to negotiate fair prices for their produce and, while information can help, organization can too. Farmers' organizations, such as marketing cooperatives, need to be strengthened to enable them to play a stronger role in the marketplace and to participate in agro-processing and other parts of the value chain. Such organizations can also play an important role in shaping government policies towards agriculture.

20. Regionally, fuller integration of markets can open up new opportunities for farmers, providing an incentive to boost productivity and also in many cases to diversify into new, higher value crops and agro-products. Making urban market facilities accessible to regional and local producers will create urban-rural linkages that could slow rural-to-urban migration, stimulate local economic development, and strengthen food security.

21. Greater international market access is also critical. There is still a long way to go to achieve the sort of pro-development trade policies which are meant to be the outcome of the Doha Development Round. Further progress is urgently needed in opening agricultural markets, notably the markets of developed countries to the agricultural exports of developing ones, and reducing trade-distorting subsidies. All countries need to be cognizant of and seek to address the particular market access needs and concerns of the least-developed countries, landlocked countries and small-island developing States.

22. Agriculture can and must adapt to climate change if we are to survive. Climate change also poses an important challenge for future food security. Beginning now, we must increase our investments in adaptation, including in drought- and flood-resilient as well as salt-resilient crop varieties. New ways must be found and instruments developed to help farmers to manage their increased exposure to climate

risk. International efforts to enhance adaptation of agriculture need to be scaled up, as developing country farmers will be seriously affected.

23. Agriculture, we know, also has an important role to play in climate change mitigation. Wise management of soil carbon is a win-win, increasing soil fertility while storing carbon which would otherwise be released into the atmosphere. Good soil management practices yield benefits to the world, and again the world has not yet properly valued those benefits. Sound land-use practices have strong potential and can generate financial benefits in the future to poor farmers as part of global efforts to tackle climate change. The door should be open to include agriculture and soil carbon in a new climate change deal.

24. It is essential to address the challenges and opportunities posed by biofuels, in view of the world's food security, energy and sustainable development needs, noting the ongoing efforts in this regard at the international, regional and national levels. We should continue to promote research and development with a view to continuously enhancing the sustainability of biofuels and other bioenergy sources, including through South-South, North-South, and triangular cooperation, and through the exchange of information and technological cooperation. The already existing initiatives and round tables, for example, the Global Bioenergy Partnership and the Round Table on Responsible Soy, may offer promising examples.

25. Agriculture and water are closely linked. There are many competing claims on water. Worldwide agriculture consumes 70 per cent of all fresh water withdrawals. Agricultural water productivity has to be increased significantly. We should tap into the unexplored potential that lies in more adequate and efficient water management through unprecedented changes in policy and production techniques.

26. The integrated management of land and water resources is crucial for sustainable rural development and for ensuring food security for a growing population. Sustainable land and water management plays a crucial role for achieving poverty eradication, food security and sustainable development. It provides multiple benefits, such as sustaining agricultural productivity and food security, enhancing living conditions for local populations, generating ecosystem services and sequestering carbon. Promoting sustainable land and water management will require effective land administration, equitable land access, integrated planning, broad participation and improved dissemination of knowledge and good practices. Small-island developing States are facing specific challenges in addressing sustainable land and water management in the face of climate change.

27. In response to the decreasing availability of water in many regions, there is a need for better water management, protecting ground and surface waters from pollution, enhancing availability of scarce water resources, including through conservation and efficiency gains, and considering the ecological impacts of water use and pollution. Achieving water productivity gains in rain-fed agriculture is especially urgent. Access to safe drinking water and sanitation services in rural areas, where coverage remains low, is crucial for preventing disease, promoting rural development and ensuring the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals.

28. We stand at a crossroads, a watershed. At this time, we find ourselves in the midst of multiple crises. Not just a food crisis, but a climate crisis and a financial crisis, all of which are worsening the underlying poverty crisis. Agriculture is an important part of the solution to these crises. This provides the proper lens with which to see and understand the interconnections among these different crises, and to find our way out.

29. A green economy is the way out of the current food crisis — a green economy at whose heart is a green revolution. A green stimulus, with significant investments in agriculture, can also be a way out of the current financial crisis. And sustainable agricultural and livestock practices as well as sustainable biofuels production can also help us out of the climate crisis. Developing countries should be able to participate fully in these opportunities.

30. Sustainable farms, food, feed, fuel, funds — all are needed to put us on a sustainable path to the future. But the most important ingredients in the recipe are farmers, especially women farmers, and rural communities whose empowerment is the key to poverty eradication and to sustainable development.

31. It is my hope that we are all guided in our endeavours towards sustainable development, by a shared vision — one of shared well-being for all people and of common stewardship of this planet which we all share and which sustains us.

Gerda Verburg
Chairperson of the seventeenth session of the
Commission on Sustainable Development

Chapter II

Thematic cluster for the implementation cycle 2008/2009 — policy session: (a) agriculture; (b) rural development; (c) land; (d) drought; (e) desertification; and (f) Africa

1. The Commission considered item 3 of its agenda at its 2nd to 14th meetings and in a number of parallel meetings of its Working Groups I and II, from 4 to 15 May 2009.

2. At its 2nd meeting, on 4 May, the Commission heard general statements by the representatives of the Sudan (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), the Czech Republic (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Mexico (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Rio Group) and Grenada (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Alliance of Small Island States).

3. At its 3rd meeting, on 4 May, the Commission also heard general statements by the representatives of the United Arab Emirates (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of Arab States), Nauru (on behalf of the small island developing States of the Pacific that are Members of the United Nations), the Sudan (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States), the United States, Japan, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Korea and Israel. A statement was also made by the observer for Palestine.

4. Also at the 2nd meeting, presentations on the outcomes of intersessional activities and events were made by the following participants: Javad Amin-Mansour (Islamic Republic of Iran), on the outcome of the Capacity Development Workshop for Improving Agricultural Productivity, Water Use Efficiency and Rural Livelihoods, held in Bangkok, from 28 to 30 January 2009; Kaire Munionganda Mbuende (Namibia), on the outcome of the African regional meeting on "African agriculture in the twenty-first century: meeting the challenges, making a sustainable green revolution", held in Windhoek, on 9 and 10 February 2009; and Ilan Fluss (Israel), on the outcome of the seminar entitled "The role of native and desert-adapted species for the purpose of slowing desertification", held in Kibbutz Ketura, Israel, from 22 to 30 March 2009.

5. At the same meeting, the Commission held an interactive dialogue on regional perspectives and heard presentations by the following representatives of the regional commissions: Masakazu Ichimura, Chief, Environment and Development Policy Section, Environment and Development Division, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP); Josue Dione, Director, Food Security and Sustainable Development Division, Economic Commission for Africa (ECA); Marianne Schaper, Sustainable Development Officer, Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); Marco Keiner, Director, Environment, Housing and Land Management Division, Economic Commission for Europe (ECE); and Carol Chouchani Cherfane, Chief, Water Resources Section, Sustainable Development and Productivity Division, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

6. Also at the same meeting, the following delegations participated in the interactive dialogue on regional perspectives: the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Lebanon, Grenada, Iraq and Kyrgyzstan.

7. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of the regional commissions responded to the comments and questions from delegations, after which a concluding statement was made by Masakazu Ichimura (ESCAP), as Coordinator of the regional commissions.

8. Also at the 3rd meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the following major groups: women; children and youth; indigenous peoples; non-governmental organizations; local authorities; workers and trade unions; business and industry; scientific and technological community; and farmers.

9. At the same meeting, the Commission had before it the report of its Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting (E/CN.17/2009/2) which contained the Chairperson's draft negotiating text.

10. Also at the same meeting, comments on the draft text were made by the representatives of the Sudan (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), the Czech Republic (on behalf of the European Union), Grenada (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Alliance of Small Island States), Nauru (on behalf of the small island developing States of the Pacific that are Members of the United Nations), China, Brazil, Switzerland, India, Norway, Mexico, Indonesia, the United States, Australia, Côte d'Ivoire, the Sudan (on behalf of the of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States), Lebanon, Argentina, Japan, Morocco, Canada and Peru.

11. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

12. At the 4th and 5th meetings, on 6 and 8 May, the Co-Chair of Working Group 1, Tania Raguž (Croatia), and the Co-Chair of Working Group 2, Javad Amin-Mansour (Islamic Republic of Iran), reported on the progress in the negotiations of their respective groups.

13. At its 7th meeting, on 12 May, the Commission held a ministerial dialogue with representatives of major groups and United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes on implementing sustainable development.

14. At the 7th meeting, an opening statement was made by the Chairperson, who also acted as moderator.

15. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the Assistant Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women.

16. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the following major groups: women; children and youth; indigenous peoples; non-governmental organizations; local authorities; workers and trade unions; business and industry; scientific and technological community and farmers.

17. At the same meeting, statements were made by Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Minister of Environment and Tourism (Namibia), and Khaled Irani, Minister of Environment (Jordan), as well as by the representative of the United States.

18. At the same meeting, statements were made by the Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme, as well as by the representatives for the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

19. At the same meeting, the Commission held an interactive dialogue, during which presentations were made by the representatives of the following major groups: farmers; women; non-governmental organizations; local authorities; and indigenous peoples.

20. At the same meeting, statements were made by Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Minister of Environment and Tourism (Namibia), and Grace Ekpiwhre, Minister of State (Nigeria), as well as the representatives of Senegal, the Czech Republic, the United States, Brazil and Italy.

21. At the same meeting, the representatives of the following major groups participated in the dialogue: workers and trade unions; business and industry; indigenous peoples; farmers; scientific and technological community; children and youth; local authorities; women; and non-governmental organizations.

22. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the representatives of the World Meteorological Organization and UNIDO.

23. At its 8th meeting, on 12 May, the Commission held a ministerial dialogue with representatives of the policy research community and United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes on implementing sustainable development.

24. At the same meeting, an opening statement was made by the Chairperson, who also served as moderator.

25. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development.

26. At the same meeting, the Commission held an interactive dialogue on the theme "The future of sustainable development", during which presentations were made by Steven Bass, Senior Fellow, Natural Resources Group, International Institute for Environment and Development, and Ashok Khosla, Chief Executive Officer, Development Alternatives.

27. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Indonesia, Brazil and China.

28. At the same meeting, the representatives of the following major groups participated in the dialogue: scientific and technological community; farmers; workers and trade unions; and non-governmental organizations.

29. At the same meeting, the observers for IFAD and UNIDO also participated in the dialogue.

30. At the same meeting, the Commission held an interactive dialogue on the theme "Sustainable development challenges", during which presentations were made by Calestous Juma, Professor and Director of the Science, Technology and

Globalization Project, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, and Youba Sokona, Executive Secretary, Sahara and Sahel Observatory.

31. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Netherlands, the Sudan and the Czech Republic.

32. At the same meeting, the representatives of the following major groups participated in the dialogue: farmers; workers and trade unions; scientific and technological community; children and youth; non-governmental organizations; and local authorities.

33. At the same meeting, the observers for UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO and IFAD, as well as James Gustave Speth, School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, Yale University, also participated in the dialogue.

High-level segment

34. The Commission held a high-level segment from 13 to 15 May 2009.

35. At the 9th meeting, on 13 May, the Chairperson convened the high-level segment.

36. At the same meeting, the Secretary-General addressed the Commission.

37. Also at the same meeting, the Commission heard a statement by the President of Guyana, Bharrat Jagdeo.

38. At the same meeting, statements were made by Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Minister of Environment and Tourism (Namibia); Sylvie Lucas (Luxembourg), President of the Economic and Social Council; and Homero Bibiloni, Secretary of Environment and Sustainable Development (Argentina).

39. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by Julia Marton-Lefèvre, Director-General, International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.

40. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by Shoaib Sultan Khan, Chairman, National Rural Support Programme (Pakistan), a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

41. At the same meeting, statements were made by Abdalmahmood Abdalhaleem Mohamad, Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China); Jakub Šebasta, Minister of Agriculture, Czech Republic (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union); Kathleen A. Merrigan, Deputy Secretary, Department of Agriculture (United States); Christopher Tufton, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Jamaica (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Alliance of Small Island States); Marlene Moses, Permanent Representative of Nauru to the United Nations (on behalf of the small island developing States of the Pacific that are Members of the United Nations); Ahmed Abdulrahman Al-Jarman, Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of Arab States); Ismat Jahan, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations (on behalf of the Group of the Least Developed Countries); Kazuhiko Takemoto, Vice-Minister for Global Environmental Affairs

(Japan); Dmitry Igorevich Maksimychev, Deputy Director, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Russian Federation); and Stefania Prestigiacomo, Minister of the Environment and of Protection of Land and Sea, Italy (on behalf of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States).

42. At its 10th meeting, on 13 May, the Commission heard the statements by the following keynote speakers: Achim Steiner, Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme; Axumite Gebre-Egziabher, Director, New York Office of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme; Alexander Mueller, Assistant Director-General, Sustainable Development Department, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; and Rajul Pandya-Lorch, Head of the 2020 Vision Initiative, International Food Policy Research Institute.

43. At the same meeting, the Commission held two parallel interactive round tables on the topic, "Responding to the food crisis through sustainable development".

44. Round table 1 was co-chaired by Oliver Dulić, Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning (Serbia), and Manfred Boetsch, State Secretary and Director-General, Federal Office for Agriculture (Switzerland), and facilitated by Axumite Gebre-Egziabher, Director, New York Office of UN-Habitat, and Alexander Mueller, Assistant Director-General, Sustainable Development Department, FAO.

45. A statement was made by the Co-Chair (Switzerland), after which an interactive discussion ensued, during which interventions were made by the representatives of India, Cuba, China, Germany, Montenegro, Mozambique, Namibia, Côte d'Ivoire, the United Kingdom, Thailand, Peru, Lebanon, the Republic of Korea, Belgium, Barbados and Morocco.

46. A statement was also made by the major group representative of farmers.

47. Statements were made by the facilitators in response to the interventions by delegations.

48. The Co-Chair (Switzerland) summarized the highlights of the round table discussions.

49. Round table 2 was co-chaired by Kathleen Merrigan, Deputy Secretary, Department of Agriculture (United States), and Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Minister of Environment and Tourism (Namibia), and facilitated by Ibrahim Thiaw, Director, Division of Environmental Policy Implementation, UNEP, and Rajul Pandya-Lorch, Head of the 2020 Vision Initiative, International Food Policy Research Institute.

50. Statements were made by the Co-Chairs, after which an interactive discussion ensued, during which interventions were made by the representatives of Gabon, Israel, Cambodia, Colombia, Uruguay, Monaco, Finland, Sweden, Benin, Nicaragua, Cameroon, Jamaica, Brazil, the Sudan, Zambia, Japan, Ireland, Indonesia, Pakistan, Poland, Canada, Guyana, the Netherlands and the United States.

51. A statement was also made by the major group representative of children and youth.

52. Statements were made by the facilitators and the Co-Chair (United States) in response to the interventions by delegations.

53. The Co-Chair (Namibia) summarized the highlights of the round table discussions.

54. At its 11th meeting, on 14 May 2009, the Commission heard the statements by the following keynote speakers: Tesfai Tecle, Special Adviser to the Chairman, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa; Robert Watson, Director, International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development (United Kingdom); and Matthew Wyatt, Assistant President, External Affairs Department, IFAD.

55. At the same meeting, the Commission held two parallel interactive round tables on the topic, "Realizing a sustainable green revolution in Africa".

56. Round table 1 was co-chaired by Paul Biyoghe Mba, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Food Security and Rural Development (Gabon), and Homero Bibiloni, Secretary of Environment and Sustainable Development (Argentina), and facilitated by Tesfai Tecle, Special Adviser to the Chairman, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa.

57. A statement was made by the Co-Chair (Gabon), after which an interactive discussion ensued, during which interventions were made by the representatives of China, India, Austria, Nigeria, Portugal, Kuwait, the Republic of Korea, Argentina, Ghana, Malawi, Morocco, Italy, Gabon and Côte d'Ivoire.

58. A statement was also made by the major group representative of non-governmental organizations.

59. Statements were made by the facilitator and the Co-Chair (Argentina) in response to the interventions by delegations.

60. The Co-Chair (Gabon) summarized the highlights of the round table discussions.

61. Round table 2 was chaired by Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Minister of Environment and Tourism (Namibia), and facilitated by Robert Watson, Director, International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development (United Kingdom) and Matthew Wyatt, Assistant President, External Affairs Department, IFAD.

62. A statement was made by the Chairperson, after which an interactive discussion ensued, during which interventions were made by the representatives of Israel, Japan, Indonesia, Brazil, Cambodia, France, Lebanon, the United States, Poland, Guyana, Zambia, Canada, Finland, Namibia, the Sudan and Sweden.

63. A statement was also made by the major group representative of the scientific and technological community.

64. Statements were made by the facilitators and the Chairperson in response to the interventions by delegations.

65. The Chairperson summarized the highlights of the round table discussions.

66. At its 12th meeting, on 14 May, the Commission heard the statements by the following keynote speakers: His Royal Highness Prince Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands and Chairman, United Nations Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation; José de Jesús Romo Santos, Director-General, Rural

Development Support, Ministry of Agriculture (Mexico); and Katherine Sierra, Vice-President for Sustainable Development, World Bank.

67. At the same meeting, the Commission held two parallel interactive round tables on the topic "Integrated management of land and water resources for sustainable agriculture and rural development".

68. Round table 1 was co-chaired by Christoper Tufton, Minister of Agriculture (Jamaica), and Sumardjo Gatot Iriano, Vice-Minister of Agriculture (Indonesia), and facilitated by His Royal Highness Prince Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands, and Chairman, United Nations Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation, and Katherine Sierra, Vice-President for Sustainable Development, World Bank.

69. A statement was made by the Co-Chair (Jamaica), after which an interactive discussion ensued, during which interventions were made by the representatives of India, China, Ghana, the United Republic of Tanzania, Namibia, Brazil, Afghanistan, Denmark, Thailand, Argentina, Barbados, Malawi, Morocco, Burkina Faso, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Solomon Islands (on behalf of the small island developing States of the Pacific that are Members of the United Nations) and Papua New Guinea, as well as by the Observer for Palestine.

70. A statement was also made by the major group representative of the indigenous peoples.

71. Statements were made by the facilitators and the Co-Chairs in response to the interventions by delegations.

72. The Co-Chair (Jamaica) summarized the highlights of the round table discussions.

73. Round table 2 was chaired by Luis Alberto Ferraté, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources (Guatemala), and facilitated by José de Jesús Romo Santos, Director-General for Rural Development Support, Ministry of Agriculture (Mexico).

74. A statement was made by the Chairperson, after which an interactive discussion ensued, during which interventions were made by the representatives of Israel, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Iceland, Malaysia, Brazil, Angola, Japan, Canada, Nepal, Spain, Mongolia, Iraq, Namibia, the United States, Kyrgyzstan, Finland, France, Zambia and Guatemala.

75. A statement was also made by the major group representative of women.

76. A statement was made by the facilitator in response to the interventions by delegations.

77. The Chairperson summarized the highlights of the round table discussions.

78. At the 13th meeting, on 15 May, the summaries of the parallel interactive round tables were presented by Oliver Dulić, Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning (Serbia), and keynote speaker, Alexander Mueller, Assistant Director-General, FAO, for the round table on "Responding to the food crisis through sustainable development"; Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Minister of Environment and Tourism (Namibia), and keynote speaker, Matthew Wyatt, Assistant President, External Affairs Department, IFAD, for the round table "Realizing a sustainable

green revolution in Africa"; and Luis Alberto Ferraté, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources (Guatemala), and keynote speaker, His Royal Highness Prince Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands, and Chairman, United Nations Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation, for the round table "Integrated management of land and water resources for sustainable agriculture and rural development".

79. At the same meeting, the summary of the ministerial dialogue with the representatives of the major groups and the United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes, on implementing sustainable development, was presented by the representative of the farmers major group; and the summary of the ministerial dialogue with the policy research community and the United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes, on implementing sustainable development, was presented by Gisbert Glaser, Senior Adviser, International Council for Science.

80. At the same meeting, the Chairperson of the Commission introduced the draft "Shared vision" document.

81. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United States, the Czech Republic (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Guyana, Lebanon, Italy, Brazil, India, Cameroon, Argentina, the Republic of Korea, Pakistan, Israel and Sweden.

82. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the following major groups: business and industry; workers and trade unions; and local authorities.

Action taken by the Commission

Policy options and practical measures to expedite implementation in agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa

83. At the 14th meeting, on 15 May 2009, the Chairperson of the Commission introduced the draft outcome document, which was contained in an informal paper circulated in English only.

84. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft outcome document (see chap. I, sect. B, resolution 17/1).

Policy session

A. Opening statements

85. Opening the first policy session, the Chairperson of the Commission, Gerda Verburg (Netherlands), emphasized the collective responsibility of the Commission on Sustainable Development to come up with concrete deliverables and practical solutions to overcome the multiple crisis that are severely threatening the world: poverty, the food crisis, economic recession, environmental degradation and climate change. She stressed that a sustainable green revolution requires a revolution in ideas, technologies, policies, market access and financial means.

86. The Deputy Secretary-General drew the attention of the Commission to the projection that the world population was expected to reach 9 billion by the year 2050 and highlighted the urgency of addressing the issues of poverty, hunger and

food security. She highlighted four areas for action by the international community: reviving long-run investment in agriculture; investing in technologies adapted to local conditions and to climate change; making agricultural markets work for farmers in developing countries; and managing finite land and water resources sustainably. The Deputy Secretary-General joined the Chairperson of the Commission in calling for a sustainable green revolution in Africa as well as in the other developing regions.

87. The Director of the Division for Sustainable Development made a statement emphasizing the importance of forming a consensus of the Commission on addressing the challenges before it. The Director also highlighted the efforts on the part of the secretariat to improve the servicing of the Commission and documentation made available to it.

B. Reporting on intersessional events

88. Following introductory statements, the Commission heard reports on the outcome of a number of intersessional events.

89. The Vice-Chairman of the Commission, Javad Amin-Mansour (Islamic Republic of Iran), reported on the outcome of the Capacity Development Workshop for Improving Agricultural Productivity, Water Use Efficiency and Rural Livelihoods, which was held in Bangkok, from 28 to 30 January 2009. The meeting stressed the need for: boosting agricultural productivity with a view to sustainable food security; more efficient water management in agriculture; broad investment in rural areas to build social capital; security of land tenure; and adaptation to climate change as an integral part of coping strategies.

90. The Vice-Chairman of the Commission, Kaire Munionganda Mbuende (Namibia), reported on the outcome of the African regional meeting on the theme "African agriculture in the twenty-first century: meeting the challenges, making a sustainable green revolution", held in Windhoek, on 9 and 10 February 2009. The Windhoek Declaration called for: acceleration of achievement of the Maputo Declaration target for raising public expenditures on agriculture; increased international support for African agriculture with the framework of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme; a sustainable green revolution to attain food security, based on diversity of ecosystems and biodiversity and striking a balance among the three pillars of sustainable development; complementary investments in rural roads and other infrastructure research and development; and extension services.

91. The representative of Israel, Mr. Ilan Fluss, reported on the outcome of the intersessional meeting on "The role of native and desert-adapted species for the purpose of slowing desertification", held at the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies on Kibbutz Ketura in southern Israel, form 22 to 30 March 2009. The workshop aimed to facilitate international information exchange on relevant national experiences, in particular on reclamation of degraded lands; comprehensive planning initiatives for drylands; sustainable water management methods; afforestation programmes for arid and semi-arid regions; and policies to promote sustainable agriculture in vulnerable regions.

C. Regional perspectives session

92. Representatives of the United Nations regional commissions made presentations on regional perspectives of implementation in the six thematic areas followed by interactive dialogue with delegations.

Asia and the Pacific

93. The representative of ESCAP pointed to multiple crises — food, water, energy, financial, ecosystem and human health crisis — and the need for green recovery strategies. He identified key sustainable development gaps which needed to be filled: enhanced food production to address poverty and hunger, access to water and sanitation; investments in human and social capital; better management of demand for resources; and investment in irrigation and other infrastructure. Empowerment of farmers and communities was stressed, including through land tenure reform, to promote eco-efficient agriculture based on sustainable and optimal land and water use. The outcome of the sixty-fifth session of ESCAP was presented and regional food security priorities were identified as improving access to food, promoting sustainable agriculture and adapting to climate change, for the short, medium and long term, respectively.

Africa

94. The representative of ECA emphasized that African countries had placed agriculture as a top priority sector within the framework of the New Partnership for Africa's Development. In that regard, there was a need to define the core areas for the 10 per cent budget allocation agreed in the Maputo Declaration, to establish a comprehensive mechanism for monitoring progress towards the target, and to build national and regional capacity to track expenditure on agriculture. Moreover, development partners would need to align their assistance with the objectives and principles of the New Partnership for Africa's Development Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme and provide flexibility on funding disbursement procedures within countries' strategic frameworks rather than in a fragmented project-by-project approach.

95. Core priorities for policy attention and investment were identified in the thematic areas. In agriculture, they included: rural infrastructure, including for health and education; research and extension; access to agricultural inputs and product markets; agricultural supply chain integration up to the regional level; and access to sustainable energy for rural development. In land, the priorities included: scaling up land reforms, making use of a new pan-African land policy framework and guidelines adopted by the Conference of African Ministers of Agriculture, Land and Livestock in April 2009; legal frameworks incorporating a plurality of tenure forms; and strategies and policies for managing pastoral lands. With regard to drought and desertification, priorities included: support the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification; and mainstreaming national action plans to combat desertification with Global Environment Facility support. With respect to Africa, priorities included: regional integration; reinforcing the trend towards peace, stability and democratization; sustainable consumption and production; and sustainable use of natural resources.

Latin America and the Caribbean

96. The representative of ECLAC noted that while the region had registered significant agricultural growth, social and environmental results were unsatisfactory. Poverty had not been reduced, deforestation was on the rise, biodiversity losses were being registered, desertification was on the increase and resources continued to be depleted. It was noted that some countries had put forward the idea of rethinking the existing agricultural development model since it had been designed to meet a past reality that did not take into account current developments such as climate change, food and energy price volatility, increased natural disasters, and absence of trade preferences for developing countries. The need to address rural development in an integrated fashion, to implement simultaneously river basin management, water management, land planning and environmental management was highlighted. With respect to land, institutional and legal frameworks were needed to guarantee tenure and access to agricultural land as a means to eradicate poverty. It was also noted that efforts needed to be undertaken regarding research and development into drought-resistant plants and improved agricultural techniques to facilitate agricultural production in areas suffering from water shortages. The need for drought early warning systems was also noted. The main consequences of drought and desertification included a significant drop in ecosystems productivity, therefore lowering agricultural productivity, increasing forests depletion and the loss of biodiversity. Innovative ways of providing ecosystem services needed to be found.

Europe, Northern America and other regions

97. The representative of ECE focused on land management and administration, identifying main areas of emphasis such as sustainable land administration and use; efficient cadastral and registration systems, including through the use of digital technologies; improved spatial planning policies; better urban environmental performance; and strengthening social cohesion in cities, including through secure and equitable land rights. Regarding land management and spatial planning, the main challenges were identified as urban sprawl, informal settlements without basic services or good quality housing, and self-made cities. It was mentioned that there was a need, depending on the country, for regulatory frameworks to facilitate access to housing and land, including through tenure regularization, upgrading of settlements, resettlement and relocation programmes. It was stressed that the work of ECE was oriented to achieve the recognition of land as a basic human asset and the creation of opportunities for low-income groups.

Western Asia

98. The representative of ESCWA noted that there was a shift in the region from national food self-sufficiency towards greater reliance on trade with neighbours, including Africa, as well as towards more widespread use of non-conventional sources of water for agriculture. Climate change, population growth and unsustainable consumption and production patterns were creating major challenges. Agricultural policies should promote investment in agricultural production and improve productivity and competitiveness. The importance of community-based, indigenous approaches was stressed, with a focus on women and youth; also mentioned were legislation to address veterinary and sanitary and phyto-sanitary issues, and scientific research and technology transfer, especially biotechnologies. In rural development, a rights-based approach was encouraged to promote

sustainable livelihoods, including through financing of small-scale agricultural projects. Enhancement of the role of the private sector and civil society and ensuring socially just land tenure systems were mentioned. Sustainable land management practices needed to be adopted to combat land degradation, and risk and vulnerability profiles and maps as well as activation of early warning systems could help to cope with drought.

D. Consideration of policy options and other measures

99. The Commission focused its deliberations on those policy options and practical measures which could advance implementation in the thematic areas under consideration: agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa, with a particular focus on how implementation could be advanced through a concerted global effort.

100. It was noted by delegations that the world faced multiple crises which impacted on the topics under discussion, and that renewed commitment and a new vision were needed to make progress in these areas while responding to these crises. The importance of reaching concrete outcomes from the seventeenth session of the Commission was highlighted.

101. The delegations provided general observations and comments on the Chairperson's draft negotiation text.

E. Summary of the dialogue of ministers with major groups and United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes on implementing sustainable development

102. Major groups, Government ministers and representatives of the United Nations system participated in an interactive dialogue entitled "Implementing sustainable development" on the morning of 12 May. The session was opened with general remarks by the Chairperson of the seventeenth session, Gerda Verburg, followed by a statement from Rachael Mayanja, Assistant Secretary-General of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and Special Adviser to the United Nations Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women.

103. During the first half of the session, presentations by each of the nine major groups' sectors were followed by interactive discussion. The second half featured presentations and discussion on four specific topics presented by multiple major groups' sectors: (a) the Farming First model; (b) rural development; (c) urban-rural linkages for food security and vibrant markets; and (d) secure land tenure and water rights.

104. Throughout the dialogue, speakers were unanimous in emphasizing the need for bold outcomes of the seventeenth session of the Commission that would include specific, action-oriented policies to be carried forward by all implementation actors, and would allow major groups to play a participatory role in sustainable long-term approaches to agriculture and rural development, especially in Africa. Ministers, heads of delegation and heads of United Nations entities agreed that farmers — in particular small farmers — were at the heart of sustainable agriculture, and proclaimed a willingness to support shared priorities; a number asserted that major groups were powerful agents within the multilateral process and urged greater coherence in leadership within the major groups' community. Several Ministers

added that progress within the major groups' community must be supported by sound national policies on sustainable development.

105. Women, youth, farmers, indigenous peoples and workers and trade unions at the national and local levels must be empowered as actors in rural development. Without the recognition of rights to land, water, food and food sovereignty, coupled with an enabling policy environment and increased budgets for research and development of small-scale agriculture, efforts to provide realistic and workable policy solutions would fail on the ground. The ecosystem approach and human rights approach, which prioritize traditional knowledge within local and regional systems, remained essential, albeit difficult to implement. In this regard, legislation must be strengthened to ensure that land rights and land tenure systems could be reformed in accordance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

106. Discussion also revolved around ways to foster linkages that could mitigate the negative impacts of rural-urban migration and stimulate local economic development by building infrastructure, shortening the market chain, and creating high-quality jobs through access to microcredit schemes, public-private partnerships, investing in extension services, and South-South cooperation. Ministers noted that improved agricultural outreach and simple mechanization tools could inspire more youth to choose rural livelihoods and sustain rural incomes. Major groups and several Ministers agreed that non-governmental organizations, local authorities, and the scientific and technological community required additional resources, support and technological tools to conduct research, provide access to training and education, strengthen the knowledge base through access to data, and facilitate capacity-building in local communities that was participatory and inclusive. Several United Nations entities described collaboration in that regard, with aims to improve the ability of communities to adapt to climate change by assessing risks and protecting food, water and energy resources.

107. Farmers, the scientific and technological community, and business and industry collectively advocated an integrated approach to agriculture and food security — the Farming First model — that emphasized safeguarding natural resources, sharing knowledge, building local access, protecting harvests, enabling access to markets, and prioritizing research imperatives. Local authorities and non-governmental organizations stressed that making urban market facilities accessible to regional and local producers would create more carbon-neutral communities and constituted a step towards food system resilience in all regions, while providing a buffer from global food system prices and supply stocks. The Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development Initiative launched as a result of the multi-stakeholder dialogue during the eighth session of the Commission, was cited as a multilateral partnership that had proven successful. Several Ministers prioritized food sovereignty over food security, while one Minister countered that development of a strong agricultural economic base would eliminate the need to choose one over the other, noting ongoing South-South cooperation in this area.

F. Summary of the dialogue of ministers with the policy research community and United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes on implementing sustainable development

108. The Chairperson of the seventeenth session, Gerda Verburg, opened the dialogue by stressing the needed to link science and research with application and policymaking. Advanced technologies needed to be wedded with farmers' wisdom, experience and local and indigenous knowledge. Too little research and development had been undertaken on the technologies of interest to farmers in developing countries. Noting that agriculture had been neglected for too long, she stressed that agriculture was at the heart of poverty reduction and a driving force in social and economic development. It was also central to the climate change agenda.

109. Assistant Secretary-General Jomo Kwame Sundaram said that the recent multiple crises had clearly shown the limits of the current economic model and made more urgent a fundamental rethink of economic development and global economic governance. He asked if the Agenda agreed at Rio was still relevant, and if it provided the guidance being sought as these new challenges are faced. Solving the food crisis was a priority for all countries, but especially for developing countries that were disproportionately affected. He asked how the recurrence of food crises could be avoided in the future. The key to solving global food insecurity issues while simultaneously and durably curbing poverty was to ensure better livelihoods for hundreds of millions of small-scale farmers and rural communities. That approach also yielded benefits in addressing climate change.

110. Four invited speakers from the policy research community reflected on: the future of the sustainable development agenda; how best to develop that agenda in light of emerging challenges; the sustainable green revolution; and how to deal with the food crisis.

111. During the first part of the dialogue, participants discussed, inter alia, the long-term nature of the sustainable development agenda; the very modest progress so far in pushing this agenda forward; the paradox of relying on economic growth to solve the problems caused by economic growth; the roles of science, technologies and local knowledge in informing us as to how to live within the ecological limits of the Earth; the establishment of a broad-based knowledge management partnership on sustainable development; how the extremes of affluence and poverty both had major impacts on the environment; the lack of realism of the fine-tuning approach and the need to leapfrog and make fundamental changes in mindsets and values; and inconvenient choices that needed to be made about unsustainable consumption and lifestyles. It was suggested that the limits of nature could provide opportunities for new ways of doing things.

112. There was a sense that the momentum of Rio could only be regained by removing the increasing fragmentation of the issues and examining again the complexity of issues in an integrated way. Traditional knowledge had never fragmented the elements of sustainable development knowledge. A "wiring diagram" for the next 20 years of the sustainable development process was proposed by one speaker, including a new political economy, accountability measures, incentives, and capacity-building for resilience and adaptation. It was suggested that the current multiple crises offered an opportunity for a paradigm shift in thinking about how to operationalize the concept of sustainable development and that Copenhagen would provide a litmus test.

113. During the second part of the dialogue, participants discussed, inter alia, the need for high-level executive leadership to improve agricultural performance and the recognition that only coordination of key players at the national level could create coherent policies to promote agriculture; the need to create incentives to support the creativity of farmers; the recognition that agriculture was a knowledge-intensive sector and needs entrepreneurial activity and investment in basic infrastructure; the needed to bring research, teaching and extension under the same roof in order to extend agricultural information to the ground level. On the food crisis, it was mentioned that the tendency was to react only to crises, even if food insecurity was endemic in many countries. Coordinating information is an important issue, as is the lack of information needed by farmers, for example, in Africa. The most important factor might be the inadequacy of the institutions at all levels to deal with the problems.

G. High-level segment

114. Attended by over 60 ministers, the Commission's high-level segment focused its interactive discussions on the six thematic areas under consideration.

Opening of the high-level segment

115. At the opening of the segment, the Chairperson of the seventeenth session, Gerda Verburg, Minister of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality of the Netherlands, emphasized that the challenge was how to feed 9 billion people by 2050. She stressed the need for leaders to show credibility, cooperation and commitment to make the tough decisions that would help to determine the world in which we live tomorrow. She called upon her fellow ministers to come forward with a shared vision, to build partnerships at all levels and to implement the Commission's agreements on the ground with adequate means of implementation.

116. The Secretary-General stressed that the idea of an integrated and comprehensive approach to development, the essence of sustainable development, remained as valid today as ever in order to address the climate crisis, food crisis and energy crisis. He underlined a strong link between climate change mitigation and sustainable agriculture and stressed that, left unchecked, climate change would have a devastating effect on the poor. Talking about a green revolution in Africa, the Secretary-General stated that farmers, in particular in Africa, must have access to land, security of tenure, access to markets, technology and improved infrastructure, in particular to empower women to become full partners in development.

117. The President of Guyana, Bharrat Jagdeo, stated that awareness-raising, though vital, was not enough to achieve sustainable development. There was a need to forge a new international policy environment whose effectiveness was commensurate with the sustainable development challenges which the international community faced. The challenges of food security would no longer be addressed within the confines of national boundaries but was increasingly global in scope. Global food security required a partnership that brought together the best science, adequate resources and a coherent set of international trade and other policies. It was necessary to be bold in climate change decisions. Climate change was a far greater threat than the collapse of any bank, so the world needed to act with the same urgency it had displayed in addressing the current financial crisis.

118. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Minister of Environment and Tourism of Namibia, underlined that the right policies, institutions, infrastructure and investment in scientific research, technology transfer and development as well as information dissemination were essential for the success of a sustainable green revolution in Africa. Such a revolution must be based on the empowerment of farmers, notably women, through skills development and secure land tenure, and the contributions of crop and livestock farmers of all sizes.

119. The President of the Economic and Social Council, Sylvie Lucas, Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations, stated that the Commission on Sustainable Development was uniquely placed to address the challenges in an integrated manner to tackle the global food crisis and find practical solutions to hunger and malnutrition. She stressed that existing technologies were not suffice to address future food demands; investments in new technologies are needed to support a shift towards a more sustainable agricultural and food production system.

120. Homero Bibiloni, Secretary of Environment and Sustainable Development of Argentina, stated that the Commission should follow up with the implementation of the decisions adopted. The citizens and inhabitants of the planet, small and medium producers, farmers, native inhabitants from all regions, demanded concrete measures to move forward. He urged the Commission to consider issues of agricultural trade barriers and subsidies, and their implications for poverty and natural resource pressures in developing countries. He also stressed the importance of climate change and the need to strengthen institutions dealing with climate change.

121. The Director-General of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, Julia Marton-Lefèvre, stated that investing in nature was essential to support the environment's ability to continue to provide services, including to agriculture, and it could only succeed with the involvement and commitment of all partners from Governments to the private sector to civil society. Investing in nature was an effective and achievable means to decrease people's vulnerability to drought, desertification and food insecurity.

122. Shoaib Sultan Khan, Chair, National Rural Support Programme in Pakistan, stressed that forging partnerships and dialogues with communities and vulnerable groups was vital for eradicating poverty, and communities should identify and be part of their own solutions and take destiny in their own hands to lift themselves out of poverty and address other sustainability concerns, including climate change.

123. A number of ministers stated that eradication of hunger and poverty, ensuring food security, and achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, should remain a guiding force of the Commission's decisions. They also stated that the means of implementation were of utmost importance. In that regard, providing new and additional financial resources was urgently required. Access, acquisition, transfer and diffusion of new and appropriate technologies were necessary to increase productivity and competitiveness in developing countries.

124. Some countries also stated that biodiversity and ecosystem services were essential for poverty eradication and development. The importance of combating soil erosion and land degradation was also stressed, especially with the added stresses posed by climate change. Countries emphasized the importance of

diversifying rural economies to improve livelihoods and strengthen resilience. Several countries pointed to partnerships as practical solutions to the challenges in the areas of agriculture and rural development.

125. A number of countries also stated that the Commission was a very important mechanism to provide guidance and coordination on issues related to the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development and also on the means of their implementation.

Interactive ministerial round tables

Responding to the food crisis through sustainable development

126. The highlights of discussion were the following:

127. First, food security was only one of multiple crises, alongside the financial and economic crisis and the climate change crisis, which together were dealing a hard blow to the poor. The rise in the undernourished population owing to the food crisis had erased 20 years of progress in that area.

128. Participants expressed their assessment that the current food crisis was not over. Last year's price increases had been passed through faster and farther to consumers than the recent price decreases. So, the poor who must buy their food were still suffering. With the economic crisis, many developing countries were hard hit by collapsing exports, capital flight and rising unemployment.

129. Secondly, the steep food price hikes would have long-term impacts on the poor, who might spend 80 per cent or more of their budgets on food. Food deprivation in early childhood imposed a life-long burden. Even as we worked to prevent another such crisis by investing in boosting the productivity especially of small farmers, we must be prepared with safety net measures for the next crisis. It was felt that women and children should be given the highest priority during such crisis in terms of supply of food and nutrition.

130. Thirdly, additional efforts were needed to increase agricultural production, particularly, but not only, in Africa. Apart from a handful of countries with dynamic agricultural sectors, the supply response to the recent price increases had been weak. Small and resource poor farmers had not been able to access the inputs and the credit needed to boost supply. Land degradation and water scarcities had also hindered a strong response; likewise, poor transport and other infrastructure to get products to markets.

131. Participants agreed that higher priority should be given to agriculture and food security than in the past, including in the national plans of member States.

132. Cooperation was needed in collecting data that could be used to monitor food security at the national and other levels, including through the use of geographical information systems. Capacity-building for food security monitoring and to strengthen early warning systems was needed.

133. The round table participants called for increased investment in agriculture in developing countries, including in research and development, extension, training and education, and rural infrastructure such as roads and irrigation. Participants also expressed the need to promote and reform land ownership rights, especially for

women, and to redress the imbalance between the role played by women in agriculture and what women control.

134. Countries needed to share experience in science, innovative technology, training and developing human capacities as important components in the work to overcome the world food crisis.

135. Other priorities mentioned were providing access to microcredit for small farmers and women, minimizing post-harvest losses through appropriate technologies and storage facilities, and improving market access at all levels — local, national, regional and global.

136. Participants expressed the view that biofuel production could be complementary to, and carried out in harmony with, food production. However, concerns were also expressed about the negative impacts of biofuel production on the environment and food security. Further research was needed, however, into how to ensure the sustainability of biofuel production and avoid jeopardizing food production. The Bioenergy Partnership was mentioned as a possible avenue for partnership between countries in that regard.

137. A number of participants emphasized that market access issues needed to be addressed to provide the right incentives for food production in developing countries. Agricultural trade distortions of all kinds should be removed if developing countries' farmers were to have a fair chance of competing in world markets.

138. Climate change was mentioned by several participants as an important challenge for future food security. International efforts to enhance adaptation of agriculture to climate change needed to be stepped up, as developing country farmers would be seriously affected. Some stressed that agriculture should be included in the agenda for discussion at the climate change negotiations in Copenhagen.

Realizing a green revolution in Africa

139. The highlights of the discussion were the following:

140. The importance of a uniquely African green revolution was stressed, one which was built on the three pillars of sustainable development. Speakers emphasized that much could be achieved in boosting agricultural productivity even with currently available technologies and knowledge, but that a key challenge was their wider diffusion and uptake by farmers.

141. Still, to feed a growing population adequately and to allow for improved nutrition under conditions of growing water scarcity, climate change, soil depletion and ecosystem degradation, business as usual would not suffice. Ministers highlighted the urgency of appropriate national and international action and greater cooperation to bring about a paradigm shift and to realize a truly sustainable green revolution that would reverse the widespread trends of declining agricultural productivity and incomes.

142. African farmers also faced steep costs or unavailability of essential agricultural inputs, high post-harvest losses, and limited access to national, regional and international markets. Agricultural supply chains needed to be strengthened, including post-harvest processing and storage.

143. Increased investment in research would be needed to boost productivity, making full use of indigenous knowledge and responding to farmers' needs and local conditions. It was suggested that farmers and rural communities should be consulted when setting agricultural research agendas. Also, research could be more closely linked to teaching, training and extension services.

144. Ministers had an exchange of views with experts on what sorts of new technologies should be explored and whether certain genetically modified organisms might be considered if they could help to address Africa's food needs. Discussions focused not only on the scientific case, but on the questions of farmer and public acceptance and who would fund promising research which might have limited commercial potential.

145. Extension services needed to be revitalized in many countries and made more representative of farmers, most of whom were women. Investments were needed in measures to reverse land degradation, in irrigation, rural roads and other infrastructure, and in health and education. Satellite technologies would be valuable in monitoring soil conditions.

146. Government had to make many of these investments, but it was recognized that the private sector must play a central role in expanding agricultural production and building agricultural value chains. Institutions to support private initiative needed to be strengthened, including secure tenure rights, including for women farmers.

147. Comprehensive legislative reforms on land were being undertaken in some African countries, and it was suggested that these could be replicated elsewhere to empower farmers and rural communities. Women's empowerment was particularly stressed.

148. Farmers' organizations such as marketing cooperatives needed to be strengthened to enable them to play a stronger role in the marketplace and to participate in agro-processing and other parts of the value chain. Such organizations could also play an important role in shaping governmental policies towards agriculture.

149. New institutions were needed to help farmers to better manage their risks, including weather and climate insurance affordable to small farmers.

150. Participants noted the importance of efforts to diversify rural economies by promoting non-farm activities and enterprises (including sustainable tourism and management of nature reserves). In this way, migration from rural to urban areas could be reduced.

151. Several Ministers observed that there was a need to reengage in the World Trade Organization negotiations in the area of agriculture and reach trade agreements that were fair and would benefit developing countries.

152. Ministers shared information on recent commitments and the ongoing and planned international technical and financial cooperation programmes, including a growing number of South-South cooperation initiatives launched to enhance agricultural production in Africa. Such programmes included training, capacity-building and scholarships, sharing of satellite imagery for monitoring soils and land degradation, the transfer of biofuels technology and know-how, the promotion of

agricultural and infrastructure investments, trade financing and facilitation of market access for agricultural trade between developing countries.

Integrated management of land and water resources for sustainable agriculture and rural development

153. The highlights of the discussion were the following:

154. The integrated management of land and water resources was crucial for sustainable rural development and for ensuring food security for a growing population. It was mentioned that successful integrated land and water management depended on secure land tenure arrangements, broad participation and improved the dissemination of knowledge and good practices. The specific challenges for small island developing States in translating integrated land and water management into action were highlighted.

155. Integrated water resources management was a widely used framework, but water efficiency in agriculture did not figure prominently in many integrated water resources management plans. Ministers emphasized the need for an institutional framework coordinating across key ministries for effective water management, given water's importance for human consumption as well as agriculture, energy, transportation and preserving biodiversity.

156. It was highlighted that, in response to the decreasing availability of water in many regions, there was a need for better water management, protecting ground and surface waters from pollution, enhancing availability of scarce water resources, including through conservation and efficiency gains, and considering the ecological impacts of water use and pollution. Achieving water productivity gains in rain-fed agriculture was especially urgent.

157. Speakers addressed a number of technology needs and applications to implement integrated land and water management and integrated water resources management, including improved hydro-meteorological systems, improved access to wastewater treatment, including for safe reuse in agriculture, and technologies to address water scarcity, including rainwater harvesting and desalination.

158. Effective water management was essential for sustainable agriculture, both to produce food crops and also for the sustainable production of biofuels and energy. There was an exchange of views on biofuels and water use, with a panelist noting the water intensity of first-generation biofuel production and a delegate arguing that sustainable biofuel production was not only possible but several countries were producing biofuels with sustainable water use, for example, from rain-fed sugar cane.

159. It was observed that, to have an impact, concepts such as "more crop per drop" needed to be wedded to such tools as information technologies for controlling irrigation water flow.

160. Soil conservation measures were important for land conservation and rehabilitation. It was noted that rural employment schemes could be an effective way of providing livelihoods to poor people while investing in the restoration of vegetation and in land restoration.

161. Ministers noted a need for sharing knowledge, experience and technologies and for promoting capacity-building for integrated land and water management.

162. Access to safe drinking water and sanitation services in rural areas, where coverage remained low, was crucial for preventing disease, promoting rural development and ensuring the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals.

163. Several participants emphasized that the participation of women in decision-making processes, as the managers of water and land resources, was crucial to ensure the sustainable use of land and water resources.

164. One panellist noted that local authorities were promoting human and social capital as one of the most powerful tools in the fight against rural poverty and the promotion of sustainable rural development.

165. Flexibility was important when designing rural development programmes to tailor them to specific needs and local contexts and adapt them over time. Local communities should participate in the design of such programmes in order to ensure ownership and sustainability.

166. Panellists and delegates noted that climate change was affecting water and land resources, and there was need to implement policies to strengthen resilience and adaptation. A number of adaptation measures were mentioned, including catchment of flood water for groundwater recharge.

167. The potential for sound land-use practices to store carbon in soils was highlighted, as was the possibility that in future poor farmers might receive financial benefits from such practices as part of global efforts to tackle climate change. If so, this would bring together poverty eradication, economic development and climate change objectives.

H. Shared vision

168. The Chairperson of the seventeenth session, Gerda Verburg, presented a shared vision for the way forward to meet both the near- and long-term challenges facing agriculture and to realize a green revolution firmly planted on all three pillars of sustainable development.

I. Partnerships fair: highlights

169. The partnerships fair, an official part of the annual sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development, was held from 4 to 8 May, featuring 17 Commission-registered partnerships with activities related to the Commission's current thematic cluster. As of May 2009, the Commission secretariat's database contained 346 registered partnerships, out of which 103 identified the thematic cluster of the Commission's sixteenth and seventeenth sessions as the primary focus of their work.

170. In keeping with the policy year focus on policy options and practical measures to expedite implementation, the partnerships fair aimed to highlight on-the-ground experiences from partnership practitioners working on the current thematic cycle, and to maximize opportunities to identify innovative solutions, strategies that had proven effective and emerging possibilities in implementing sustainable development goals and commitments through partnerships.

171. Partnerships fair activities featured six working sessions designed to generate a more interactive dialogue among leading-edge thinkers, practitioners and experts on the latest developments and emerging issues in the international dialogue on partnerships, as well as building bridges between the policy recommendations and

effective implementation; three training sessions aimed at providing Commission participants with tools and resources on establishing, developing and maintaining effective partnerships; and information desks offering 14 Commission-registered partnerships an opportunity to display and distribute information on their respective partnership activities, as well as interact more directly with Commission participants. Details are available at the Division for Sustainable Development website (http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/dsd_aofw_par/par_index.shtml).

172. Effective approaches to linking locally produced food and sustainable agriculture practices with public policies and political support were discussed in a working session entitled "Urban-rural linkages for food security and vibrant markets: the potential for public procurement", sponsored by the Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development Initiative. By creating markets and improved livelihoods for both rural and urban quality food producers, public food policies, in particular creative school feeding policies, hold the potential to promote ecological sustainability, healthy eating and social inclusion.

173. Key strategies that had proved effective in Namibia in addressing land degradation were discussed in a session entitled "Fostering a culture of partnership for rangelands: Namibian National Rangeland Management Policy and Strategy working group". The session described the establishment of the Country Pilot Partnership Programme and the National Rangeland Management Policy and Strategy working group to help to coordinate policies, practices, modern science and traditional knowledge that combine agricultural production and economic livelihoods with nature conservation and land-based tourism. Conclusions addressed the effectiveness of using partnerships to address complex national challenges with the involvement of multiple stakeholders based on dialogue and agreed principles.

174. Support to efforts to expand, replicate, adapt and scale up best practices in partnerships for sustainable development was analysed in a session on the future of partnerships, sponsored by the Government of Italy and the Division for Sustainable Development. The need to invest in people, innovation, imitation, institutions, communication and entrepreneurship as well as in a supporting environment to facilitate the implementation of sustainable development was underlined. The session, which benefited from the participation of a wide range of stakeholders, emphasized the need to mainstream partnerships more effectively, in particular through regional capacity-building and institutional development workshops. Also important were consultations to review and assess what partnerships had collectively achieved, identify lessons learned and best practices, as well as serve as a fertile ground to open opportunities and possibilities for replication, scaling up, expansion and adaptation of initiatives.

175. Activities that had made important contributions to addressing the challenges of poverty, food insecurity and a lack of economic opportunities for sustainable livelihoods in mountain communities were considered in a session to promote higher value and quality products in mountain economies, sponsored by the Mountain Partnership. Mountain agriculture cannot compete with the prices and volumes of lowland production and has to concentrate on high-value, high quality products in order to be economically viable and increase the incomes and improve the livelihoods of mountain farmers. Concrete examples were presented regarding fair-trade and high-quality organic coffee production in Ethiopia; supporting women's groups of felt producers in Central Asia to sell their products; rebuilding

and facilitating dairy value chains in Nepal and Peru; the cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants in eastern Nepal; and traditional Tibetan potters in Yunnan, China.

176. The track record of multi-stakeholder partnerships in harnessing science and technology for sustainability was discussed in a session sponsored by the National Academies, based on a two-year effort that commissioned 11 case studies to analyse the incentives to engage in partnerships and the relative effectiveness of different organizational structures for partnerships. Dozens of academics and researchers drafted insightful analyses, and partners from the practitioner side (and their supporting institutions) provided inputs so that the final product and the evidence analysed would become a valuable tool to the diverse array of stakeholders engaged in partnerships.

177. The need to create an enabling environment for locally driven multi-stakeholder partnerships that are taking more innovative and entrepreneurial approaches to sustainable development challenges was analysed in a session sponsored by The SEED Initiative. Such approaches to sustainable development are an important means of delivering the aspirational goals agreed by the international community at the Millennium Summit and at the World Summit on Sustainable Development. Yet there remains a knowledge gap on tools and guidance on what kind of support and frameworks are needed to help good ideas to survive, grow, be replicated and scaled up. Concrete examples, such as the SEED Award Winners, of the local entrepreneurial spirit and the vital impact on the implementation of sustainable development were presented and discussed.

178. Examples of on-the-ground applications of Earth observation data to support decision-making in Central America and Africa were showcased by the Group on Earth Observations/Global Earth Observation System of Systems. Earth observation information is vital to assist countries to address natural and human-induced disasters, understand the environmental sources of health hazards, manage energy resources, respond to climate change and its impacts, safeguard freshwater resources, improve weather forecasts, manage ecosystems, promote sustainable agriculture and conserve biodiversity. A 10-year strategic plan of action was unveiled to develop and improve analytical tools and methods for agricultural risk assessment in developing countries.

J. Learning Centre

179. The Learning Centre offered 12 courses during regular meetings of the Commission at its seventeenth session on topics related to the Commission's themes and cross-cutting issues. Participants had the opportunity to gain knowledge, know-how and best practices from academics and practitioners in areas related to agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa.

180. Sponsoring organizations and their instructors were encouraged by the Secretariat to provide interactive skill-building courses. To this end, they offered stimulating courses which provided an excellent learning environment to participants who clearly favoured the new, more engaging format as evidenced by the increase in the number of participants over previous sessions. The courses employed a variety of tools, including case studies, role playing and interactive discussions, video presentations as well as trends analyses and assessments. They highlighted lessons learned, challenges faced and prospects for the future related to

specific issues presented. Instructors represented a wide range of universities, research institutions, non-governmental organizations and governmental and international institutions.

181. There were a total of almost 500 participants in the 12 courses. The Learning Centre class size averaged 40 participants, with some courses attracting as many as 80 people. Participants represented Governments, non-governmental organizations and members of other major groups, and international institutions.

182. Course summaries and all the course materials will be made available at the new E-Learning Centre being developed by the Division for Sustainable Development on its website (www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd15/learning_centre.htm). This E-Learning Centre will ensure that these courses continue to be disseminated and that they remain available to the public in a course format.

183. A summary of the feedback and evaluation of each course received from the participants will be posted along with the course materials in order to guide future users based on the opinions of those who have taken the course.

Chapter III
Other matters

1. The Commission considered item 4 of its agenda at its 13th and 14th meetings, on 15 May 2009.

2. For its consideration of the item, the Commission had before it a note by the Secretariat entitled "Draft programme of work for the biennium 2010-2011 for the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs" (E/CN.17/2009/11).

Action taken by the Commission

Preparations for the high-level meeting to review progress made in addressing the vulnerabilities of small island developing States through the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation

3. At the 13th meeting, the representative of Grenada, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that as members of the Alliance of Small Island States, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Preparations for the high-level meeting to review progress made in addressing the vulnerabilities of small island developing States through the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation" (E/CN.17/2009/L.3).

4. At its 14th meeting, the Commission was informed that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

5. At the same meeting, Austria, Croatia, the Czech Republic (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Ghana, Greece, India, Italy, Ireland and Portugal joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

6. Also at the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution (see chap. I, sect. B, resolution 17/2).

7. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

8. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Grenada, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Alliance of Small Island States.

Draft programme of work for the biennium 2010-2011 for the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs

9. At its 14th meeting, on the proposal of the Chairperson, the Commission decided to take note of the note by the Secretariat on the draft programme of work for the biennium 2010-2011 for the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (E/CN.17/2009/11) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 17/1).

Dates of meetings of the Commission during its 2010/2011 cycle

10. At its 14th meeting, on the proposal of the Chairperson, the Commission decided to approve the following dates for the meetings of the Commission during its 2010/2011 cycle and recommended it for adoption by the Economic and Social Council:

(a) 3 to 14 May 2010 for the eighteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (review session);

(b) 21 to 25 February 2011 for the intergovernmental preparatory meeting for the nineteenth session of the Commission;

(c) 2 to 13 May 2011 for the nineteenth session of the Commission (policy session) (see chap. I, sect. A, draft decision I).

11. Before the adoption of the draft decision, a statement was made by the representative of the Czech Republic, to which the Secretary of the Commission responded.

Chapter IV

Provisional agenda for the eighteenth session of the Commission

1. The Commission considered item 5 of its agenda at its 14th meeting, on 15 May 2009. It had before it the draft provisional agenda for its eighteenth session (E/CN.17/2009/L.4).

2. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the provisional agenda and recommended it for adoption by the Economic and Social Council (see chap. I, sect. A, draft decision II).

Chapter V

Adoption of the report of the Commission on its seventeenth session

1. At its 14th meeting, on 15 May 2009, the Commission had before it the draft report on the organizational and other matters of its seventeenth session (E/CN.17/2009/L.2).

2. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft report and entrusted the Rapporteur with its completion, with a view to its submission to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2009 (see chap. I, sect. A, draft decision II).

3. Before the adoption of the draft report, a statement was made by the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

Chapter VI
Organizational and other matters

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Commission on Sustainable Development held its seventeenth session on 16 May 2008 and from 4 to 15 May 2009. The Commission held 14 plenary meetings. Working Groups I and II also held a number of parallel meetings. The Commission also held a number of associated activities and side events.

2. At the 2nd meeting, on 4 May, the Chairperson, Gerda Verburg (Netherlands), opened the session and made a statement.

3. At the same meeting, the Deputy Secretary-General addressed the Commission.

4. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Sudan (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), the Czech Republic (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Mexico (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Rio Group) and Grenada (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Alliance of Small Island States).

5. At the 3rd meeting, on 4 May, statements were made by the representatives of the United Arab Emirates (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of Arab States), the Sudan (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States), the United States of America, Japan, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Korea and Israel and the observer for Nauru (on behalf of the Pacific small island developing States).

6. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the observer for Palestine.

7. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the following major groups: women; children and youth; indigenous peoples; non-governmental organizations; local authorities; workers and trade unions; business and industry; the scientific and technological community; and farmers.

B. Election of officers

8. At its 1st meeting, on 16 May 2008, the Commission elected the following members of the Bureau by acclamation:

Chairperson:
Gerda **Verburg** (Netherlands)

Vice-Chairman:
Javad **Amin-Mansour** (Islamic Republic of Iran)

9. At its 2nd meeting, on 4 May 2009, the Commission elected the following members of the Bureau by acclamation:

Vice-Chairpersons:
Kaire Munionganda **Mbuende** (Namibia)
Tania Valerie **Raguž** (Croatia)
Ana **Bianchi** (Argentina)

10. At the same meeting, the Commission was informed that Tania Valerie Raguž (Croatia) would also assume the responsibilities of Rapporteur.

C. Agenda and organization of work

11. At its 2nd meeting, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda for its seventeenth session, as contained in document E/CN.17/2009/1, and approved its organization of work, as outlined in annex I thereto. The agenda was as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Thematic cluster for the implementation cycle 2008-2009 — policy session:
   (a) Agriculture;
   (b) Rural development;
   (c) Land;
   (d) Drought;
   (e) Desertification;
   (f) Africa.
4. Other matters.
5. Provisional agenda for the eighteenth session of the Commission.
6. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its seventeenth session.

12. At the same meeting, the Commission heard presentations on the outcomes of intersessional events by: Javad Amin-Mansour, Vice-Chairperson of the Commission (Islamic Republic of Iran), on the outcome of the Capacity Development Workshop for Improving Agricultural Productivity, Water Use Efficiency and Rural Livelihoods; Kaire Munionganda Mbuende, Vice-Chairperson of the Commission (Namibia), on the outcome of the African high-level regional meeting on the theme "African agriculture in the twenty-first century: meeting the challenges, making a sustainable green revolution"; and Ilan Fluss (Israel), on the outcome of the intersessional seminar entitled "The role of native and desert-adapted species for the purpose of slowing desertification".

13. Also at the 2nd meeting, presentations were made by the following representatives of the regional commissions: Masakazu Ichimura, Chief, Environment and Development Policy Section, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP; Josue Dione, Director, Food Security and Sustainable Development Division, ECA; Marianne Schaper, Sustainable Development Officer, Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division, ECLAC; Marco Keiner, Director, Environment, Housing and Land Management Division, ECE; and Carol

Chouchani Cherfane, Chief, Water Resources Section, Sustainable Development and Productivity Division, ESCWA.

14. At the same meeting, an interactive dialogue with the representatives of the regional commissions was held, during which comments were made and questions were posed by the representatives of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Kyrgyzstan, and the observers for Lebanon, Grenada and Iraq. A concluding statement was made by the representative of ESCAP in his capacity as coordinator of the regional commissions.

15. At its 6th meeting, on 11 May, the Commission had before it a note by the Secretariat (E/CN.17/2009/L.1) containing a request from the intergovernmental organization, Nordic Council of Ministers, to participate as an observer in the work of the Commission at its seventeenth session.

16. At the same meeting, the Commission decided to approve the request of the Nordic Council of Ministers to participate as an observer in the work of the Commission at its seventeenth session.

D. Attendance

17. The session was attended by representatives of the 53 States members of the Commission on Sustainable Development. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for the European Community, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations also attended. A list of participants will be issued in document E/CN.17/2009/INF/1.

E. Documentation

18. The documents before the Commission at its seventeenth session are posted on the website of the Division for Sustainable Development at www.un.org/esa/dsd/resources/res_docucsd_17.shtml.

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